MONDAY
April 22, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 96

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

RJD LEADER'S RETORT

Nitish has lost his senses, says Lalu

NEWS » PAGE 14

CRISIS DEEPENS

Israeli strikes kill 18 children in Rafah

WORLD » PAGE 16

MALDIVES PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

Muizzu's party secures a landslide victory

WORLD » PAGE 16

AT ODDS

The Left-Cong. hostility in Kerala

The INDIA allies share no bonhomie in the State

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

THRILLING FINISH

KKR edges out RCB, GT scrapes past PBKS

SPORT » PAGE 17

Siddaramaiah calls Prime Minister Modi a 'nalayak'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'nalayak' (useless), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday asked voters in Kolar if they should vote for such a person.

"Does it take Mr. Narendra Modi only to suggest to youth to sell pakodas? He made youth believe by promising two crore jobs. When jobs were sought after graduation, he asked the youth to sell pakoda. He has betrayed the faith of the youth. The educated youth have decided that the Prime Minister Modi is a nalayak," the Chief Minister said.

He was speaking at an election rally in Sidlaghatta to seek votes for Congress candidate K.V. Gowtham in Kolar Lok Sabha constituency.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

Net direct tax collections exceed 2023-24 target

Tax kitty grew thanks to a surge in personal income tax; uptick in net tax collections by the year-end was driven by it and securities transaction tax, while net corporate tax kitty shrank

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

TAX
Revenue surge
India's net direct tax collections for FY 2023-24 reached ₹19.58 lakh crore, marking a 17.70% increase over the previous fiscal year's ₹16.64 lakh crore
Personal income tax constituted 53.3% of the total net direct tax collection while corporate taxes formed 46.5%
The provisional figures exceeded both the Budget estimates (BE) and revised estimates (RE) by 7.40% and 0.67%, respectively
Net personal income tax collections (including STT) amounted to ₹10.44 lakh crore, showing a growth of 25.23%
Net corporate tax collections amounted to ₹9.11 lakh crore, showing a growth of 10.26%

India's net direct tax collections grew 17.7% in 2023-24 to hit ₹19.58 lakh crore, marginally surpassing the revised estimates for the year, thanks to a surge in personal income tax whose share of the tax kitty rose to 53.3% from 50.06% in the previous year while corporate taxes' contribution dipped to 46.5% from 49.6%.

Provisional data released by the Finance Ministry on Sunday also showed that the uptick in net tax collections over the final fortnight of the financial year was driven by personal income tax (PIT) and securities transaction tax (STT) collections, while the net corporate tax kitty shrank a little.

PIT and STT receipts also grew at almost double the pace of corporate taxes last year. As of March 17, net direct taxes had risen 19.88% to ₹18.9 lakh crore, with PIT and STT accounting for 51.4% of the receipts and corporate tax yielding ₹9.14 lakh crore.

By March 31, PIT and STT inflows had increased by ₹73,000 crore, lifting their full-year tally to ₹10.44 lakh crore.

Although gross corporate tax collections increased from ₹10.98 lakh crore as of March 17 to ₹11.32 lakh crore by the close of the financial year, the net tax receipts from corporates, calculated after adjusting for refunds, dropped from ₹9.14 lakh crore on March 17 to ₹9.11 lakh crore.

The gross direct tax kitty for 2023-24 stood at ₹23.37 lakh crore, reflecting a growth of 18.5% over the ₹19.72 lakh crore tally in 2022-23.

Of this, gross PIT and STT receipts accounted for ₹12.01 lakh crore, rising ₹76,000 crore between March 17 and 31.

Prior to refunds, gross PIT and STT collections grew 24.3% while gross corporate tax collections grew 13.06% in 2023-24.

Cong. will hand private wealth to Muslims: PM

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma (left) at a public meeting in Jalore on Sunday. ANI

Assailing the Congress's promise in its manifesto to address inequality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Congress, if elected to power, would distribute people's land, gold and other valuables among Muslims.

"The Congress has declared that Muslims have the first right to the country's resources," he said.

Addressing public meetings in Rajasthan's Jalore and Banswara, he said the Congress had announced a survey to value the property of individuals, gold owned by women, and silver mostly owned by tribal families for redistribution.

Land and cash belonging to government employees and others would also be so distributed, he said.

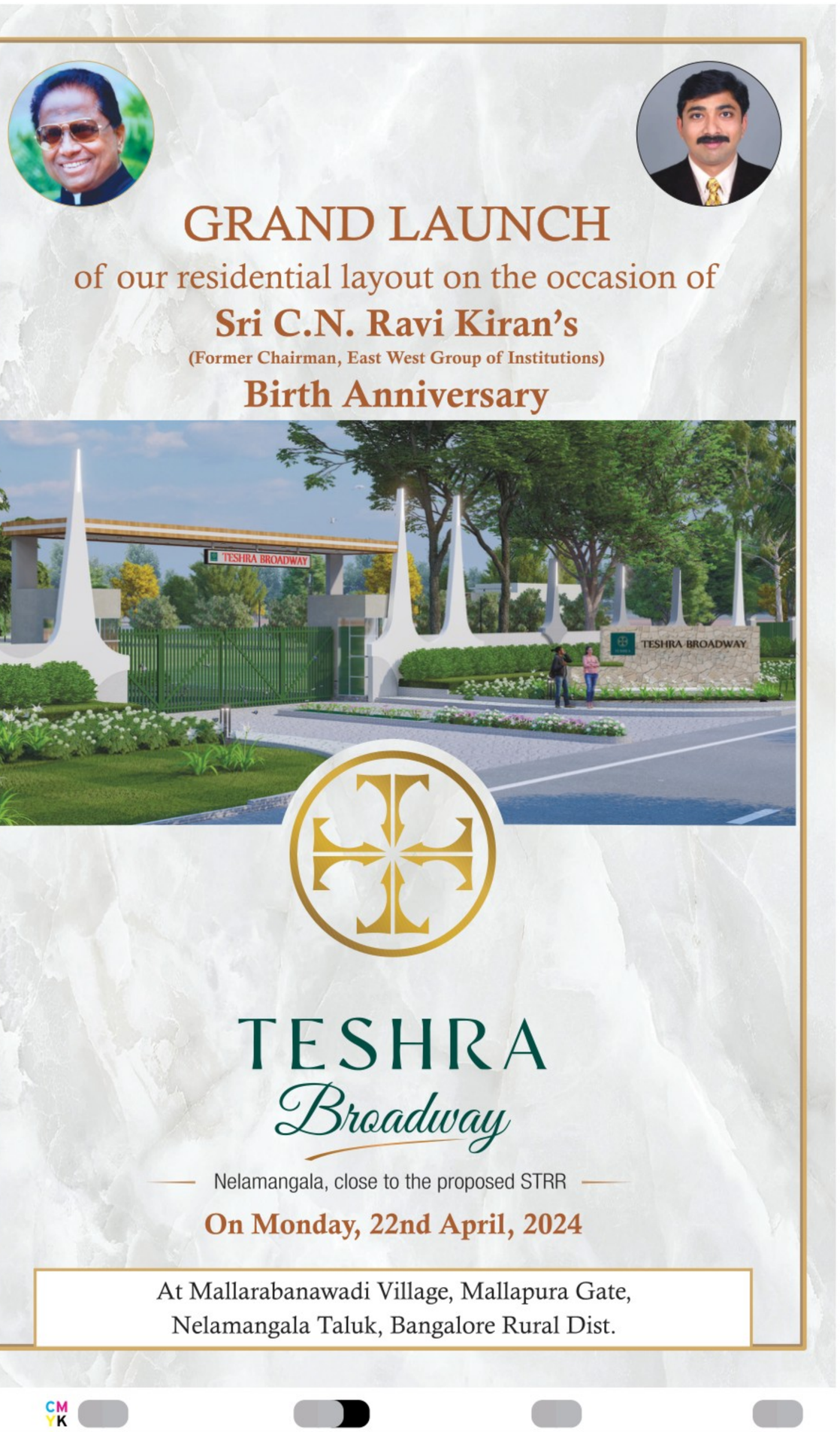
"Can you tolerate the government snatching your hard-earned money and property," he asked.

While the Congress manifesto has promised to make "suitable changes in policies" to address the growing inequality of wealth and income, party leader Rahul Gandhi said in Hyderabad this month that the Congress, if voted to power, would carry out a financial and institutional survey, after the caste census, to ascertain the distribution of wealth among the people in the country.

Mr. Modi said the then Congress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had stated in 2006 that Muslims had the first claim on the country's resources. "That means the property will be distributed among those who have a large number of children... and among the intruders. Is it acceptable to you," he asked.

The Prime Minister said the "urban Naxal" ideology of the Congress would even deprive the women of their auspicious *mangal sutra*.

"Gold jewellery of my mothers and sisters is not just for show. It is a matter of their self-respect. Congress has stooped to such a level. How can you tolerate your hard-earned money going in the hands of intruders?" Mr. Modi said.


GRAND LAUNCH
of our residential layout on the occasion of
Sri C.N. Ravi Kiran's
(Former Chairman, East West Group of Institutions)
Birth Anniversary
TESHRA BROADWAY
TESHRA
Broadway
Nelamangala, close to the proposed STRR
On Monday, 22nd April, 2024
At Mallarabanawadi Village, Mallapura Gate,
Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist.

FOREVER IN OUR THOUGHTS
SRI. C.N. RAVI KIRAN
Former Chairman
East West Group of Institutions, Bengaluru.
51st Birth Anniversary
S/o Late C.M. Nagaraj, Founder Chairman,
East West Group of Institutions,
Former Mayor, BBMP, Bengaluru.
"One life lived. Many lives Touched"
We express our earnest gratitude to have been a part of your life...
Taking your legacy forward, following your footprints,
Sure, we shall propel the same way, our Banner shall fly High,
Just as you had envisioned.... We shall keep you Alive.
We look upto the luminous star, one shining so brightly and
know you're up there watching over, we hold you in kind
propinquity, in our hearts and in our living memories.
Family members, Management, Staff, Students, Friends & Relatives.
1968
EAST WEST
EAST WEST
GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
Over 50 Years of Academic Excellence
Phone: 080-23288899 / 94482 24779

‘I can't do what Klaasen or Maxwell does, I trust my gameplan’

The Delhi Capitals' mainstay talks about playing with freedom, adapting to life's challenges and life in cricket after the T20 World Cup

K.R. DEEPAK

INTERVIEW

David Warner

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

David Warner, having retired from Test cricket, may be heading towards calling it quits in the yellow jersey at the end of the T20 World Cup in June. The Australian, in a freewheeling chat, asserts he is far from done with the Indian Premier League, a tournament synonymous with his career. Excerpts:

Having played more than 100 Tests after being tagged as a T20 specialist initially, do you think of yourself as an exception or a trendsetter?

I believe I have given every person out there hope that they can play all three formats. For me, it was about going out there and doing as best as I could and trying to perform every time I walked out to bat. I was able to do that in the Test arena and the white-ball arena, so hopefully that gives a lot of hope to a lot of kids out there that aspire one day to play red ball and Test cricket.

Which transition is more challenging: T20s to the longer formats or the other way round?

That’s not at all important. It’s about your mindset and how you want to approach the game. If you are an attacking player, always look to attack and then your defence will take care of itself. If you go out there looking to try and just defend the ball, if you are an attacking player, it’s probably not going to work in your favour. And that’s something that I had to adapt to when I was playing and making sure that I wasn’t going into my shell. And still playing the shots and the strokes that I like.

Have you given a thought about extending your sojourn as a sort of freelancer in T20 cricket post June 2024?

Yeah. Look for me, it’s about spending time with family. But I’ll prioritise IPL and Big Bash. I am doing commentary and I’ll probably play one or two, maybe in the middle of the year, just to keep your cricket skills up. I might even go back to NSW to play some stuff there to help out with the young guys. There is a lot of things that I can do in that opportunity in that sense.

What does IPL mean for David Warner?

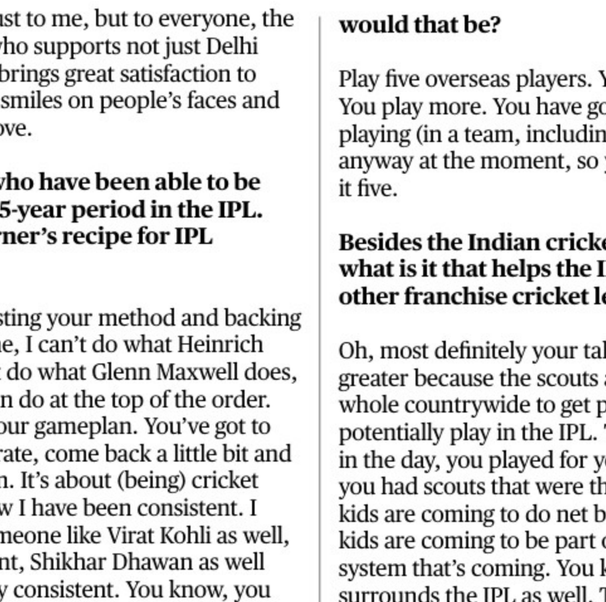
It means a lot. Not just to me, but to everyone, the fans and everyone who supports not just Delhi Capitals but the IPL brings great satisfaction to people, puts a lot of smiles on people’s faces and it’s a game that we love.

Very few players who have been able to be consistent over a 15-year period in the IPL. What is David Warner’s recipe for IPL success?

I think it’s about trusting your method and backing your skill. Like for me, I can’t do what Heinrich Klaasen does. I can’t do what Glenn Maxwell does, but I know what I can do at the top of the order. You’ve got to trust your gameplan. You’ve got to know how to accelerate, come back a little bit and then try and go again. It’s about (being) cricket smart, and that’s how I have been consistent. I think you look at someone like Virat Kohli as well, who is very consistent, Shikhar Dhawan as well over the years is very consistent. You know, you have solid foundations in teams. You can even look at bowling units as well. You can count on Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar, Axar Patel. You can actually know you have got bankers in teams. And when you have that continuity and you have the experience, you are able to just keep rocking up and backing yourself and knowing what you are going to get from your players.

If you were to point out one aspect or one instance in your IPL journey that has kind of made a big impact on your cricketing journey, what would that be?

I think just in general, adapting to different kinds of conditions, I think it aids you well when you are playing international cricket, more specifically. Being in a big competition, playing in extreme pressure – the conditions, the expectations, the atmosphere – everything that comes with it. It’s basically the enormity of what the IPL is and what it brings. And for me, I absolutely love it, and I have been a part of it for a very long time now. And it’s so like I am part of the furniture.



If you were to suggest one change to make it even better, what would that be?

Play five overseas players. You need to play five. You play more. You have got 12 players that are playing (in a team, including the Impact Player) anyway at the moment, so you might as well make it five.

Besides the Indian cricketers’ participation, what is it that helps the IPL stand out from other franchise cricket leagues?

Oh, most definitely your talent exposure is even greater because the scouts are actually going the whole countrywide to get participants to potentially play in the IPL. To play for India, back in the day, you played for your Ranji teams and you had scouts that were there, but more of these kids are coming to do net bowling. More of these kids are coming to be part of the whole ‘Academy’ system that’s coming. You know that story that surrounds the IPL as well. The IPL teams have academies attached to it, and a lot of these kids are getting exposed to these chances and opportunities. And we are seeing some extremely good talent coming through – whether it’s spin bowling, fast bowling... Mayank (Yadav) is an example who has just come on the scene as well. And now you have some extremely good batsmen as well. So it’s a great opportunity for the kids coming through to actually showcase their talent.

You mentioned the 12 players bit and you are a regular at the Big Bash League. Impact player or the X Factor rule, what works better?

If you play if you play 12, it helps because then you can play your six genuine bowlers and that allrounder becomes sort of not required, if it makes sense. But you know they do a job and predominantly more if you are a batting allrounder as well. I think it’s a good thing for the game. I think eventually the game might get to just the batting team and a bowling team and a fielding team.

When a team is not doing well, 14 league games may become a drag. How do you ensure that you keep focused on your task and keep delivering as an individual?

For me, it’s about my attitude and making sure that I am putting a smile on other people’s faces around me. Sometimes you are going to win some games, sometimes you are not, but it’s about how much fun that you create in your environment to keep things going, to keep working hard to tick along, to get that next win, staying together – really unite as a group. That’s one thing that this Delhi Capitals team does. We care about each other. We’re a big family and we have so much fun on and off. The field, you know no one likes losing, but at the end of the day the sun will come up, go back, train hard, go back on to the field and try your best. That’s all you can do.

You mentioned about the philosophy you are trying to follow at Capitals. Can you compare your two stints with the Delhi franchise?

My first stint, I was young. I was playing with (the likes of) A.B. de Villiers, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and Amit Mishra. We pretty much had a World 11 and as a young kid, I was just so chuffed to be in that change room; just looking at all these players going “wow, I can play the way I want to play. Like I can just play with freedom.” It gave me that opportunity in the IPL to do that. I had some success. Then I quite clearly had a break and went to Sunrisers and then had the opportunity to come back here to Delhi.

Combined now with my relationship with GMR and JSW as well, Ricky Ponting as coach, I get a lot more out of it now because I am a senior player. I have got the role of being responsible to other guys and make sure they are doing their thing, making sure there’s high energy, but the genuine care that is here is second to none. It’s an amazing family to be part of. I absolutely love it and I enjoyed my time the first time and I am well and truly enjoying my time the second time.

Where do you think the overall cricket ecosystem is heading towards? Is it time to possibly carve out windows for specific formats for international cricket?

Yeah, look, that’s why they have a governing body, the ICC. And you know that’s their job. That’s not my responsibility. My responsibility is to make sure that we are driving the game of cricket as best as we can. That’s by performing and making sure that we can hang around as long as we can and just help out as much. And, yeah, like there is obviously a lot of cricket going on around the world, but again today it’s what the major shareholders, what they want, and I am pretty sure that’s what’s going to happen.

From Page One

Siddaramaiah calls Modi a 'nalayak'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during an election campaign rally in Kolar LS segment on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Incidentally, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyanka Kharge's "nalayak" jibe at the Prime Minister had kicked up a row during the State Assembly elections last year. Mr. Siddaramaiah had then defended Mr. Kharge, who is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

"What was the cost of petrol, diesel, gas, fertilizer, pulses, and cooking oil before the nalayak Modi came to power? Without doing anything for 10 years, they are seeking votes. Do they have qualification to seek votes? All that you got in 10 years of Mr. Modi's rule were lies and betrayal," he said, adding that on the other the Congress had fulfilled the promises, with each family now getting ₹4,000 to ₹6,000 a month.

Earlier, during the campaign at Bangarapet, which also comes under the Kolar Lok Sabha constituency, the Chief Minister attacked former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda for supporting Mr. Modi. "Mr. Gowda and Mr. Modi have lied. If *chembu* (a small vessel in Kannada, a slang implying emptiness) looks to you like Akshaya Patre (inexhaustible vessel), why did the State not get its share of taxes? Why did drought relief not come? Why did the State not receive funds during floods? If the *chembu* looks like Akshaya Patre, why is it farmers' loans are not being waived or higher minimum support prices not being paid to farmers?"

'Modi factor' and 'Congress' guarantees' are the hot topics in Bengaluru Central

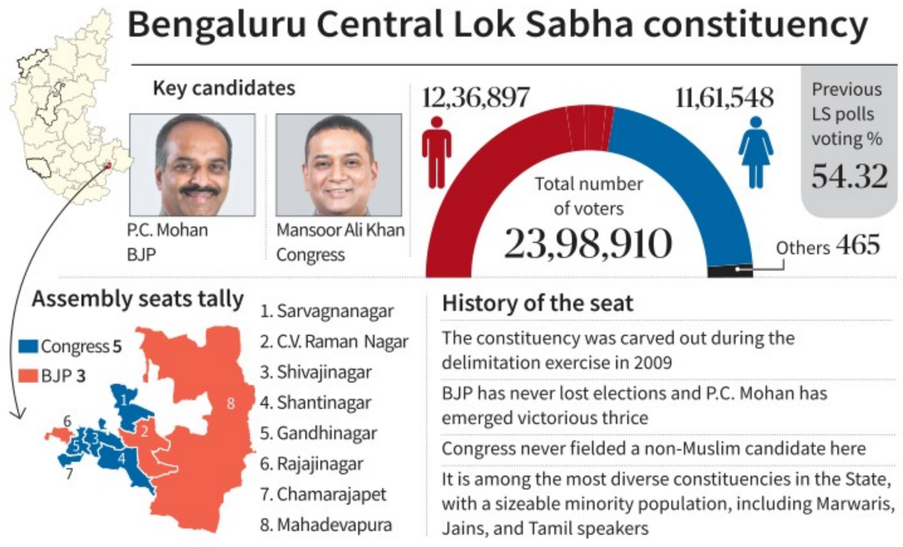
The BJP is banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and Hindu vote consolidation to win the segment, while the Congress places its bets on anti-incumbency and considerable number of minority votes to wrest the seat

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency houses both the IT corridor and some of the areas densely populated with urban poor and crumbling civic infrastructure. However, the ongoing Lok Sabha polls seem to be dominated by the "Modi factor" and the "Congress' guarantees".

Incumbent MP from the BJP P.C. Mohan, who faces stiff anti-incumbency and accusation that he has been "inaccessible", is hoping the "Modi factor" and "Hindutva" will see him through again. Mr. Mohan has served as MP for three consecutive terms.

Mr. Mohan, who has never lost the seat since it was carved out in 2008, is campaigning on the development plank, claiming credit for the party for the Namma Metro and the suburban rail, among others.



Past results

	Winner	Votes vote share	Runner-up	Votes vote share	Third place	Votes vote share
2014	P.C. Mohan (BJP)	5,57,130 **51.85%**	Rizwan Arshad (Congress)	4,19,630 **39.05%**	V. Balakrishnan (AAP)	39,869 **3.69 %**
2019	P.C. Mohan (BJP)	6,02,853 **50.35%**	Rizwan Arshad (Congress)	5,31,885 **44.43%**	Prakash Raj (Independent)	28,906 **2.41%**

On the other hand, the Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan is banking on the "guarantee schemes" and the considerable number of minority votes in the constituency. The Congress has won five out of eight Assembly seats, which it hopes will provide it some leverage.

In a constituency with significant votes from the minority communities, both Muslims and Christians, the Congress has always fielded a Muslim candidate. In fact, Mr. Khan is the only Muslim candidate in the fray from any mainstream party in the State.

However, a section within the Congress had argued for a Hindu candidate to prevent "consolidation of the Hindu vote bank". But the party went ahead and fielded a Muslim candidate as they had not given anyone from the community a ticket anywhere else in the State.

The choice of a candidate belonging to the minority community by the Congress would galvanise Hindu votes, say the BJP leaders. A BJP leader said statements of Chamrajapet MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan do not go down well with the majority community and the party is making an all-out effort to consolidate Hindu votes, especially Mahadevapura, Rajajinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, and Gandhinagar.

On the ground, the views are varied.

Kumar, an auto driver in Shanthinagar, said Mr. Mohan has been inaccessible. "He disappears after winning polls and reappears again during the elections to seek votes. People continue to vote for him to see Narendra Modi as Prime Minister," he said.

Rajajinagar BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar said C.V. Raman Nagar, Rajajinagar and Mahadevapura will protect the BJP giving them a good lead. Especially in Mahadevapura, the BJP has its vote base, he said.

"We are showing the people landmark decisions and development undertaken by Mr. Modi to seek votes. The guarantee schemes will have some impact among the voters, but it is not enough for the Congress to pull off a victory," he added.

INBRIEF

₹2.01 crore 'belonging to BJP' seized by elections officials

Election squad officials in the city seized ₹2.01 crore in cash at Chamarajapet on Saturday. The money "belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)", said Munish Moudgil, model code of conduct, nodal officer, Bengaluru Urban district. A case has been registered in the Cottonpet station.

The complainant, Ravi Asuti, head of one of the static surveillance teams, said he intercepted a car and checked it to find two bags of cash.

The two people in the car, Venkatesh Prasad and Gangadhar, produced a document which said that the money was part of ₹5 crore drawn from an account in Canara Bank on March 27, and was being sent to be distributed to booth workers of the BJP in Mysuru, Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, and Dakshina Kannada, the complainant said. Lokesh Ambekallu, office secretary, BJP, Bengaluru city, has been named as Accused No. 1 in the FIR. He also said he had alerted the Income Tax Department, but they had refused to seize the money.

Graduation day-cum-farewell

The graduation day-cum-farewell function of the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru. was held on April 19. Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda from the High Court of Karnataka was the chief guest and Sudhir Kamath, director, Defence Industry Academia Raman Centre of Excellence, IISc. was the guest of honour.

As part of the programme, students of the institute were recognised for their academic excellence and extracurricular activities.

'If you spot the Modi effect, let me know'

Congress candidate for Bengaluru North seat M.V. Rajeev Gowda claims no one wants to say there is no Modi effect openly because everyone is in fear. He adds this is the atmosphere that has been created in this country where if someone criticises Narendra Modi, they are termed anti-national

INTERVIEW

M.V. Rajeev Gowda

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

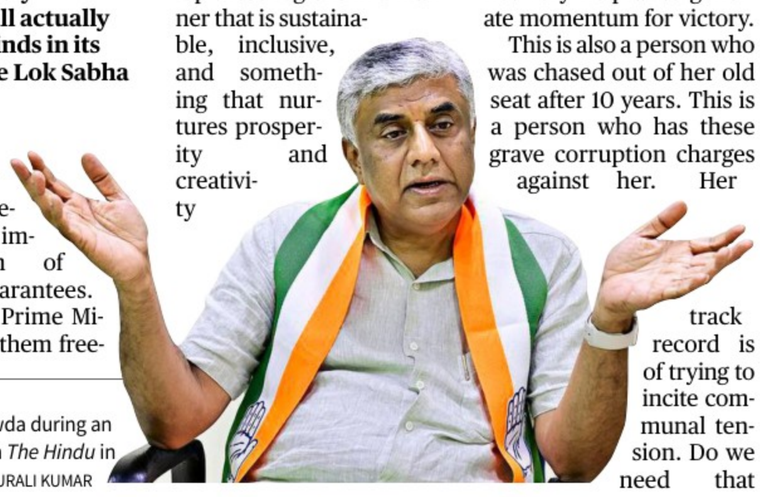
Contesting in a high-stakes battle from a constituency, Bengaluru North, which has the highest number of voters in Karnataka, M.V. Rajeev Gowda is pitted against the BJP's Shobha Karandlaje. Midway through hectic campaigning in his first direct elections, he stopped over for a chat at *The Hindu* office to talk about the Congress' chances at breaking the Bengaluru jinx, his plans for the city if elected, and whether the "Modi factor" exists this time. Excerpts:

Since 1999, the Congress hasn't been able to win a LS seat in Bengaluru. Why do you think that is and what is going to change this time?

The BJP has picked up in Karnataka, but in the last Assembly elections, the anger against its non-performance was evident. So the party was ejected from power forcefully in 2023, and we are going to see the same thing happen now. There are 25 BJP MPs, and not one of them has raised his/her voice in support of Karnataka's concerns and legitimate, justifiable demands. People are now convinced that when it comes to delivering on promises, the only answer is the Congress.

Do you think the Congress' victory in the 2023 Assembly elections will actually move the winds in its favour in the Lok Sabha elections?

Absolutely. One of our major achievements is the implementation of our five guarantees. Initially, the Prime Minister called them freebies, and now he's saying he will offer his own guarantees. In those 10 years of Modi *sarkar*, people have been suffering from price rise



M.V. Rajeev Gowda during an interaction with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Coming to the constituency that you're contesting from, it has the highest number of voters in Karnataka. It has also seen unprecedented growth. What are your priorities if elected?

Bengaluru North is where the action is. This is the new Bengaluru and so it's important for us to develop these regions in a manner that is sustainable, inclusive, and something that nurtures prosperity and creativity and overall health and happiness.

You are pitted against the BJP's Shobha Karandlaje. She has faced opposition from within her party for her nomination for this seat. Will that affect her chances in the polls?

Shobha *akka*... we were in Parliament together. She seems to have got a lot of opposition from within the party in Bengaluru North. She had even more opposition in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru. So this sort of thing is not very helpful to generate momentum for victory.

This is also a person who was chased out of her old seat after 10 years. This is a person who has these grave corruption charges against her. Her track record is of trying to incite communal tension. Do we need that sort of person for Bengaluru? In contrast, the Congress seems to have given a candidate with a vision, a track record, ability to unite and heal, and to take everyone along in a much more inclusive, positive way. People are happy that that there's a contrast.

That is generally the accusation against the Congress, that many candidates come from places of privilege and there is a disconnect between what's on the ground...

I had a very middle-class life growing up. Whatever privilege comes is from the institutions that I have been associated with. Now, people are proud of me for being one of them: a simple *mannina maga,* who has done good. I can engage with the best in the world. I can represent the best of what Karnataka and Bengaluru have to offer.

If elected as an MP, what issues would you take up first?

It should be when elected. The Central government has been very unjust and unfair to Karnataka. They have not given us the Finance Commission's recommendations, and they haven't given us drought-relief funds. We need more of our tax revenues to come back to us because this is one of the most productive cities.

Do you think the "Modi effect" still exists?

If you spot it, let me know. What you see actually is the opposite. People are disappointed. No one wants to say it openly because everyone actually is in fear. That's the atmosphere that has been created in this country where if you criticise Mr. Modi, you are termed anti-national. But people do see that that the delivery has not matched the rhetoric. When he talks about 370-400 seats, it really is betraying nervousness, because they're not even going to get 200 seats. They are going to lose in many States, starting with Karnataka. I don't think there's any Modi effect. If anything, it is anti incumbency after 10 years.

Violence is not limited to guns and daggers: Sonam Wangchuk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

People at a protest in Freedom Park on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The understanding of violence should not be limited to just guns and daggers. Environmental challenges lead to the slow death of the elderly, the birds, and the animals. So, why do we not define pollution to be a form of violence?" asked Sonam Wangchuk, environmentalist from Ladakh, who is also popular as the inspiration for the movie *3 Idiots*, at a protest in Freedom Park on Sunday.

At the event which was held as a peaceful solidarity event for Ladakh as well as local aspirations for a green, sustainable Bengaluru, he said: "Our laws are outdated. We talk about right to life, but we do not include slow poisoning with air pollution as a factor. We need to redefine our laws and education to groom our young people on how to live better."

The protest also focused on the implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act which provides constitutional status to urban local bodies.

Advocating for a decentralised form of government, Mr. Wangchuk said: "People who live in their own regions should have more control over their land."

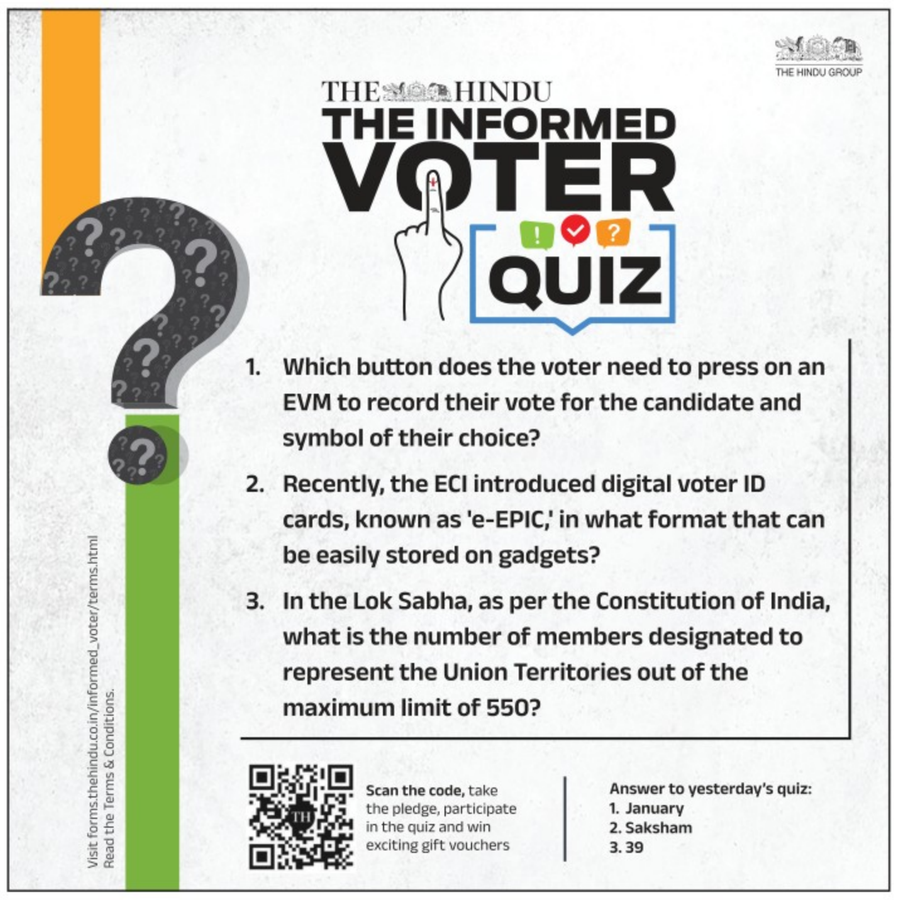
Navigation app launch: Traffic police ink MoU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police, which is focusing more on management rather then enforcement with an aim to further ease the traffic scenario, signed an MoU to bring out another mobile app from a tech company (Mappls MapmyIndia) to provide real-time updates on traffic, safety, and road conditions.

The navigation app, according to the police, is integrated with real-time traffic data, predictive analytics, and user-friendly interfaces to provide commuters with personalised navigation solutions on a three-dimensional platform. This will help in finding the quickest route to their destination, avoiding congestion hotspots, or receiving live updates on road conditions, the police said.

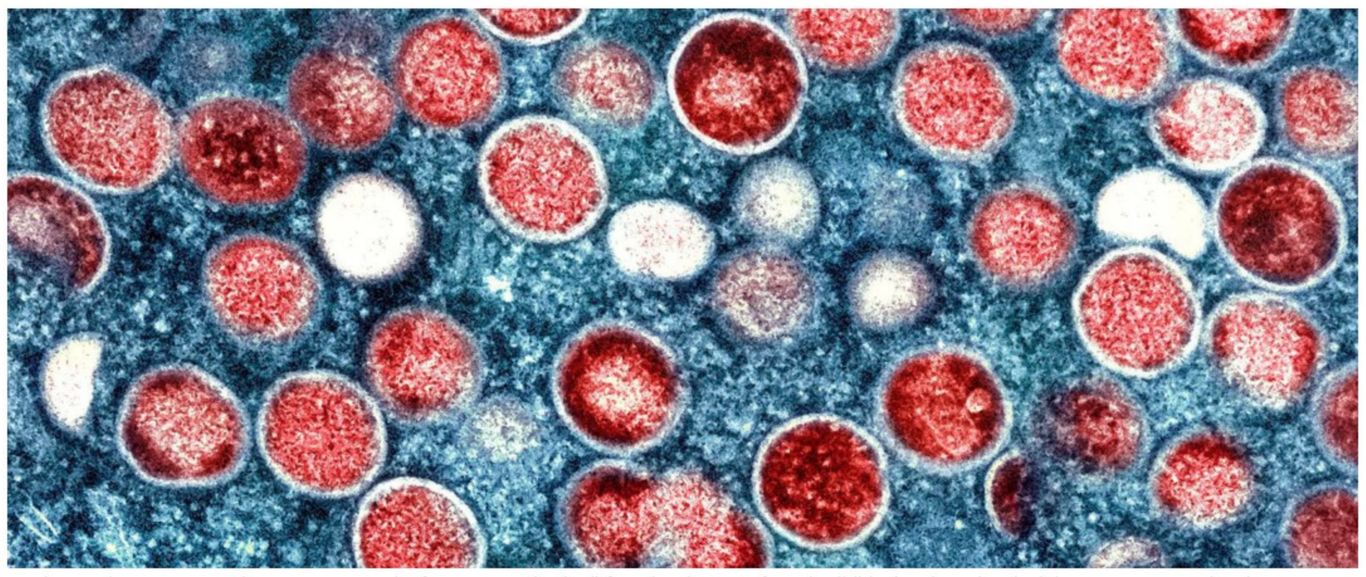
"Through the MoU, the traffic police have gained access to better traffic monitoring systems and advanced algorithms, empowering them to make informed decisions and implement targeted interventions to alleviate traffic bottlenecks. Moreover, the app served as a platform for community engagement, allowing citizens to report traffic violations, potholes, and other road hazards in real time. This is going to improve traffic movement," a senior officer said.


THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
THE INFORMED VOTER
QUIZ
1. Which button does the voter need to press on an EVM to record their vote for the candidate and symbol of their choice?
2. Recently, the ECI introduced digital voter ID cards, known as 'e-EPIC,' in what format that can be easily stored on gadgets?
3. In the Lok Sabha, as per the Constitution of India, what is the number of members designated to represent the Union Territories out of the maximum limit of 550?
Visit forms.thehindu.co.in/informed_voter/terms.html
Read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the code, take the pledge, participate in the quiz and win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. January
2. Saksham
3. 39

The mpox virus uses a 'genomic accordion' to evolve and infect humans

The mpox family of viruses is known to be able to evade selective evolutionary pressures by duplicating genes or accumulating mutations and expanding its genome or contracting it by deleting or inactivating genes. In an April 18 study, scientists reported the part of the mpox genome where these changes happen

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria



A colourised transmission electron micrograph of mpox particles (red) found within an infected cell (blue), cultured in the laboratory, captured and colour-enhanced at the NIAID Integrated Research Facility in the U.S. NIAID/AP

THE GIST

Mpox was in the headlines after a rapidly expanding global outbreak in 2022-2023. The virus was previously called 'monkeypox' after a spillover event in a research facility involving monkeys in 1958

Researchers sequenced the genome of the mpox virus implicated in the 2022 outbreak. Mpox are DNA viruses. The mpox genome has about 197 kilobases: the core genes plus two sections about 6.4 kb long, one at each end of the genome

These sections of the virus genome were found to strongly influence human-to-human transmissibility. These were eventually found to be the virus's genomic accordions

Poxviruses have long been a cause of fear as well as curiosity for humankind. One particularly infamous poxvirus, smallpox, alone may have killed more than 500 million people in the last century.

Smallpox didn't discriminate between rich, poor, young, old, and killed a third of the individuals whom it infected. The turning point came with evidence of the efficacy of the smallpox vaccine. Thus followed a concerted effort worldwide to administer the vaccine and eventually eradicate the dread disease. This feat has stood as a testament to the power of sustained global public health initiatives.

Mpox's 15 minutes

Another poxvirus, mpox, was recently in the headlines after a rapidly expanding global outbreak in 2022-2023. The virus was previously called 'monkeypox' after a spillover event in a research facility involving monkeys in 1958; the name is considered both wrong and inappropriate today: since then, researchers have identified mpox in many sporadic outbreaks among humans. They have also found multiple mpox lineages have been circulating in humans, adapting by accumulating mutations modulated largely by the APOBEC proteins.

But it wasn't until 2022 that the disease became widely known, thanks to outbreaks in more than 118 countries and the World Health Organisation (WHO) quickly declaring it a public health emergency. To date, this outbreak has infected almost 100,000 people. Based on WHO data, infections have a mortality rate of 1-10%.

The outbreak was due to one clade (strains of the virus descended from a common ancestor) – called IIb – having developed very high human-to-human transmission through close contact and spread through the sexual route. While the rate of new infections has been dropping, mpox continues to circulate among unvaccinated individuals worldwide. This increases the chance that a more virulent and transmissible strain might emerge and become endemic somewhere.

Expanding, contracting as required

Mpox, like all poxviruses, are DNA viruses. The mpox genome has about 197 kilobases (kb). The core genes are those closely conserved (i.e. preserved during evolution) by various poxviruses plus two sections about 6.4 kb long, one at each end of the genome.

Researchers don't yet know what function these sections serve but suspect they influence how well the poxviruses can infect different hosts.

The mpox genome also has a sequence of bases repeating in a pattern, which researchers believe play a role in the virus's evolution.

The mpox family of viruses is also known to be able to evade selective evolutionary pressures. It does this by duplicating genes and/or accumulating mutations and expanding its genome significantly – or contracting its genome by deleting gene stretches or inactivating them. Such rhythmic expansions and contractions are called genomic accordions.

Find the accordion

In a study published on April 18 by *Nature Communications*, researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York and multiple institutions in Spain extensively sequenced the genome of the mpox virus implicated in the 2022 outbreak. They used advanced genome sequencing technologies to piece together a comprehensive genome of the mpox virus from scratch.

They found that the 6.4-kb-long sections of the virus strongly influenced the virus's human-to-human transmissibility. They also reported that variations in three genes in particular could affect the virus's evolution. Importantly, 6.4-kb-long sections, which scientists had previously considered to be not so informative, were actually found to be the virus's genomic accordions.

> One particularly infamous poxvirus, smallpox, alone may have killed more than 500 million people in the last century

All mpox genomes can be divided into two distinct yet broad clades: I and II. Clade I is thought to have a higher mortality. Each clade has sub-clades, or lineages, defined by specific evolutionary processes.

Researchers have also found evidence of significantly different mpox virulence in animal models. The new study, like others like it, further the idea that the 2022 outbreak largely involved a new lineage of the virus, clade IIb, that was even better adapted to human-to-human transmission than clades I or IIa.

The outbreak in the DRC

Between September 2023 and February 2024, health workers detected a large mpox outbreak detected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), centred on a mining village and quickly spreading to a number of regions within the country.

This outbreak was associated with a significantly larger spread as well as mortality. Researchers soon confirmed mpox clade I was responsible.

This outbreak differed from earlier ones, which were sporadic and self-contained spillover events, by spreading through human-to-human contact and affecting young adults rather than children. A preprint paper, uploaded by researchers from Belgium, Canada, the DRC, France, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and the U.S., on April 14 describes the genomes of virus samples obtained from 241 individuals suspected to have been infected during the outbreak.

The genomic data suggests a distinct lineage of clade I being associated with human-to-human transmission.

The researchers also found evidence – in fragments of the genome that closely resembled viruses isolated and sequenced in recent years – of the hypothesis that this lineage emerged from a very recent zoonotic spillover.

One eye on the genome

As with any viral infection, without urgent intervention, the outbreak has the potential to spread rapidly across national, and even continental, boundaries and emerge as another global outbreak.

To prevent such an outcome, genome sequences from before and during mpox outbreaks have provided well-lit glimpses of the evolutionary dynamics the virus uses to invent new ways to move between and survive in different populations of animals and people.

Thus, through rigorous genomic investigations and coordinated public health efforts, we can mitigate the threat of emerging pathogens and the world's health security.

(The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and Adjunct Professors at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. All opinions expressed are personal.)

BIG SHOT

Brazil's biggest floating solar plant, with 10,500 plates on the water's surface, as seen from a drone at the Billings dam developed by Empresa Metropolitana de Aguas e Energia in São Paulo. While the Latin American country has been working to increase the share of solar power in its national grid, heat waves – such as one that passed through in early March – have lowered panel efficiencies by up to 15%. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Antihistamine: a pill for your sneeze?

Vasudevan Mukunth

Chances are you've taken an antihistamine this week. Antihistamines are common drugs that can be purchased without a prescription and are used to treat short-lived allergic reactions, like a sneezing fit or an itch.

As the name suggests, an antihistamine drug acts against the activity of the histamine receptor — proteins that bind to a compound in the body called histamine. This compound consists of two attached to each other: ethylamine ($CH_3CH_2NH_2$) and imidazole ($C_2N_2H_4$), the latter being a ring.

Depending on its location, histamine performs broadly four types of functions, each involving different histamine receptors called H1, H2, H3, and H4. The H1 receptor is found mostly in the inner surface of blood and lymphatic vessels, neurons, and smooth muscle cells. H1 antihistamines are used to block the effects of minor allergies.

Certain cells in the gastric glands release histamine, which encourage nearby parietal cells with H2 receptors to release gastric acid for digestion.

H3 receptors are located in cells in the central nervous system, where they use histamine to regulate the release of other neurotransmitters, including dopamine and serotonin. Similarly, H4 receptors use histamine to regulate the body's inflammatory response, including allergic reactions as well.

An antihistamine drug acts against the activity of the histamine receptor. TOWFIQU BARBHUIYA/UNSPLASH

Currently, there is a lot of research ongoing on H3 and H4 receptors, in particular to alleviate the effects of neurological and immunological disorders, respectively, using specialised drugs.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

KMF sees highest one-day sales thanks to festivals, high temperatures

Karnataka Milk Federation sold 16.5 lakh litres of curd and 51 lakh litres of milk across the country; Nandini's other products like flavoured milk and ice creams have also seen an increase in sales

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The scorching temperatures and the recently concluded festival season led to record sales of the Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini products across the country.

Last week, the KMF beat all-time records for single-day sales by selling 16.5 lakh litres of curd and 51 lakh litres of milk.

Along with milk and curd, Nandini's other products like flavoured milk and ice creams have also seen an increase in sales.

"While heat is the main reason why the sales have increased, we also had festivals like Ugadi, Id-ul-Fitr, and Ram Navami which increased consumption," said M.K. Jagadish, managing director, KMF.

The average sale of milk has increased by around three to four lakh litres (per day), while the average sale of curd has gone up by two to two-and-a-half lakh litres, the MD said. The sale of curd also includes the sale of buttermilk packets.

The average sale of curd has gone up by two to two-and-a-half lakh litres. FILE PHOTO

He also said that while the sales came down slightly after hitting an all-time peak, the increased demand is still continuing.

Along with sales, the production of milk has also increased this summer season. "Farmers are focusing more on the dairy sector now (in the wake of drought) as it ensures a continuous flow of income. We have seen that milk production has increased by five lakh litres during summer," Mr. Jagadish said.

New products

The KMF has launched two new products - Ragi Ambali and probiotic curd in Nandini stalls in Mysuru. "They are selling around 10,000 - 15,000 litres of these products produced by the Mysore Milk Union. While their production capacity is limited for now, if it increases, then we can consider selling the products in other districts too," Mr. Jagadish said.

He added: "Otherwise, if the sales pick up, we will replicate it at other production centres and then sell it".

KMF to sponsor Scotland and Ireland cricket teams during T20 World Cup

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Get ready to see the Nandini logo on the jerseys of Scotland and Ireland cricketers during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup which will be held in June. The Karnataka Milk Federation, the dairy cooperative from the State which sells various dairy products under the brand name Nandini, will be sponsoring the two teams in the competition.

"Our brand name and logo will appear on the lead arm of the jerseys of the players. We will also be running various social media and advertisement campaigns in association with the teams. We also want to launch whey-based drinks during the World Cup, and they will be involved in promotions as well," M.K. Jagadish, managing director, KMF, told *The Hindu*.

The KMF also sees this as a way to market its products to a bigger customer base. "We will ensure that products are available even in overseas venues where the matches will take place. We want to use this as an opportunity to push Nandini products on a global level," Mr. Jagadish said.

According to sources, the sponsorship amount will come up to approximately ₹2.5 crore per team. The source also said that while the KMF had considered sponsoring Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), the Indian Premier League (IPL) team, the presence of pre-committed sponsors and higher costs kept the deal from happening.

While many applauded the KMF for marketing Nandini on a global scale, some also took to social media and questioned why a Karnataka-based brand should sponsor foreign teams.

On X, former Infosys director T.V. Mohandas Pai said: "Why not sponsor the Karnataka Ranji team, Karnataka sports persons, Karnataka artists? Farmers' children, scholarship for poor? KMF is funded by Kannadiga tax payers' money, subsidy and investments from budget but chooses to spend on foreign teams whom nobody knows!".

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, APR. 22			
RISE	06:03	SET	18:33
RISE	17:22	SET	04:51
TUESDAY, APR. 23			
RISE	06:03	SET	18:33
RISE	18:08	SET	05:26
WEDNESDAY, APR. 24			
RISE	06:02	SET	18:33
RISE	18:57	SET	06:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	37	27
Mysuru	37	25
Bengaluru	37	24

Bengaluru Today
36°C A dry weather will prevail. Morning will be pleasant.The day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Rise in temperature. The weather will be dry. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will comfortable

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

C-CAMP joins BFI Biome Virtual Network Program

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has joined the Blockchain for Impact (BFI) Biome Virtual Network Program to accelerate transformative healthcare solutions through biomedical innovation.

According to C-CAMP, the BFI-Biome Virtual Network will nurture cutting-edge biomedical science and innovation, and accelerate the impact of transformative scientific advances in moving the needle for key healthcare challenges in India.

C-CAMP said that it has a robust pipeline of biomedical innovations in several critical areas, such as infectious disease diagnostics, anti=microbial resistance, cell therapy, immuno-oncology, regenerative tissues, digital health tech, to name a few.

At least 10 of these solutions are already in clinical trials or at pre-IND stage with the FDA or the CDSCO. With the support of the BFI, C-CAMP plans to jumpstart the last-mile sprint to commercialisation of these important emerging solutions.

Through this programme, the BFI will allocate over $200,000 over the course of three years, leveraging C-CAMP's expertise to develop essential programs for healthcare-based startups.

Construction labourers toil under scorching heat

BEATING THE HEAT

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Exhausted after working for hours with minimum breaks under the sweltering heat in Bengaluru and lack of potable water to drink, Shiv Kumari from Bihar is planning to move back to her village.

Ms. Kumari, who has two children, carries sand, cement, mud and other construction materials at building sites. She was pulled up constantly by the contractor as she was unable to meet their expectation due to the heat. Her children are also struggling under the heat, she said. She is now ready to let go of her earnings while her husband will continue working to feed the family.

"The managers are insensitive. They refuse to provide enough breaks. At the site, there is no potable water. The workers have to drink water supplied for construction. Due to water scarcity, on some days, we don't have water at all. What should we do in this situation? I have decided to go back to my village in Bhagalpur district," she said.

A 35-year-old who works for Namma Metro shared a similar story. "We bring water from our tinshed homes. The metro work is tedious, as we have to climb up and down under the hot sun. The metal is so hot that if we touch it with bare hands, it will burn. Even in this situation, we are not given a break in the afternoon."

A construction worker uses an umbrella to protect himself from the sun in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The worker said living in arid places like Raichur or Kalaburagi is different to working under the sun.

"Many say that I should not find the Bengaluru heat hard to bear as I have come from Raichur. What they do not know is that working threshold is different from living in hot places."

P.P. Appanna, president, Karnataka State Building Workers' Association, said these labourers come under the unorganised sector and no government agency will come to their rescue. "There are incidents of workers fainting due to heat. This is the fate of construction workers not just in Bengaluru, but also in other parts of Karnataka," he said.

Mr. Appanna said, about a year ago, the High Court of Karnataka directed the Labour Department to inspect construction sites to cater to the needs of labourers. "Officials complied for about two months, but after that, everyone conveniently forgot about it."

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated April 22, we have a story on a feasibility study that has been proposed by Namma Metro for a potential 129-km of Phase 4 which is supposed to connect the metro to far-flung suburbs and the adjacent districts of Bengaluru. However, experts point out that the metro could be a misplaced mobility option.

MARUTI SUZUKI
NEXA
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
IT'S STRONG HYBRID.
STRONG HYBRID
INVICTO
GRAND VITARA
1200+km
IN ONE FULL TANK
INTELLIGENT ELECTRIC HYBRID
360 VIEW CAMERA
EV MODE
e-CVT
8 YEAR
WARRANTY
ON THE BATTERY*
Maruti Suzuki offers warranty of 8 year for Strong Hybrid battery.
BATTERY WARRANTY
"VISIT YOUR NEAREST NEXA DEALERSHIP TO GET EXCITING OFFERS UP TO ₹ 87 000*"
SCAN TO KNOW MORE
STRONG HYBRID
CENTRAL BANGALORE: NEXA MUSEUM ROAD (PRATHAM MOTORS PH: 9880006006), NEXA PALACE (MANDOVI MOTORS PH: 9886003030),
SOUTH BANGALORE: NEXA ELECTRONIC CITY (SURAKSHAA CAR CARE PVT. LTD. PH: 80-25732229, 8884442229), NEXA JP NAGAR (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9590990011),
NEXA SARJAPUR ROAD (PRATHAM MOTORS PH: 9008455550), NEXA KORAMANGALA (KATARIA AUTOMOBILES PVT. LTD. PH: 8046837002),
NORTH BANGALORE: NEXA HEBBAL ORR (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9513838777), NEXA YELAHANKA (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9886003030),
WEST BANGALORE: NEXA NAGARBHAVI (BIMAL AUTO AGENCY PH: 08030693069), NEXA RAJAJINAGAR (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 8884000042),
NEXA RR NAGAR (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9590990011), EAST BANGALORE: NEXA ORR MARATHALLI (BIMAL AUTO AGENCY PH: 08030693069),
NEXA BANASWADI (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9590990011), NEXA WHITEFIELD (VARUN MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9620827474), TUMKUR: NEXA SIRA ROAD (SAKETH AUTOMOBILES PH: 9900500051),
MYSORE: NEXA VINOBA ROAD (MANDOVI MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9148973098), NEXA VANI VILAS ROAD (KALYANI MOTORS PH: 9845943743),
HASSAN: NEXA THANNIRUHALLA (VENKAT MOTORS PH: 9606939489, 9606939490).
Contact us at 1800-200-[6392], 1800-102-[NEXA] and visit www.nexaexperience.com to book online.
*Terms & conditions apply. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. For details on functioning of safety features, including airbags, kindly refer to owner's manual. Car model and accessories shown may vary from the actual product and car colour may vary due to printing on paper. All offers are brought to you by NEXA dealers only. Offers may vary subject to the model and variant purchased. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. All offers are applicable till 30th April'24 or till stocks last. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe available only in selected cities. ᵃFuel efficiency as certified by test agency under rule 115 of CMVR 1989, for Grand Vitara with Fuel Tank capacity of 45L, range is 1258.65 km (45L x 27.97km/l) and for Invicto with Fuel Tank capacity of 52L, range is 1208.48 km (52L x 23.24km/l). ^Maruti Suzuki offers warranty of ninety six (96) months or 1,60,000 kilometers (whichever occurs first) for Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) battery from the date of invoice to the first owner.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of trains cancelled on the Ambala-Amritsar route

73 Trains on the route were cancelled on Sunday as farmers continued to squat on tracks at the Shambhu railway station in Punjab for the fifth day. The protesters have been demanding the release of three farmers arrested by the Haryana Police. PTI

The amount FPIs withdrew from domestic equities

5,200 in ₹ crore. Foreign investors dumped domestic equities in April due to tweaks in India's tax treaty with Mauritius, which would impose higher scrutiny on investments made here via Mauritius. PTI

Number of people evacuated for removal of a NATO bomb

1,300 Experts on Sunday removed a bomb left over in a southern Serbian city from the 1999 NATO bombing of the country. The MK-84 bomb has an explosive charge of 430 kilograms. AFP

The share of top 100 companies disclosing carbon emissions

51 In percentage. Supplementing the efforts of the Indian government to achieve a net-zero emission target by 2070, as many as 51% of the top 100 companies have started making disclosures voluntarily about carbon emissions. PTI

The foreign aid package passed by the U.S. House

95 in $ billion. About $61 billion is for Ukraine including $13 billion for replenishing U.S. weapons stockpiles and nearly $26 billion is for supporting Israel and providing humanitarian relief for people in Gaza. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

On the fall in household savings

The sharp reduction in household net financial savings, which has been at the heart of recent debates, and the rise in household debt burden are a cause for concern for growth and economic stability

ECONOMIC NOTES

Zico Dasgupta
Srinivas Raghavendra

The fall in household savings has been at the heart of recent debates in India. The decline in household savings is brought about by a drastic reduction in net financial savings as the household net financial savings to GDP ratio attained a four-decade low. Figure 1 shows the broad trend in household savings, physical savings and gold, and net financial savings. The sharp reduction in household net financial savings in 2022-23 has been associated with an overall fall in household savings despite marginal recovery in physical savings.

Interpreting lower financial savings

The net financial savings of the household is the difference between its gross financial savings and borrowing. The gross financial savings of a household is the extent to which its financial assets change during a period. The financial assets of households typically comprise bank deposits, currency and financial investments in mutual funds, pension funds, etc. Though household borrowing includes credit from non-bank financial corporations and housing corporations, the bulk of the borrowing comprises credit from commercial banks. In general, there are at least three distinct factors that can potentially bring about a reduction in household net financial savings.

First, households typically finance their additional consumption expenditure by increasing their borrowing or depleting their gross financial savings. By financing higher consumption expenditure at any given level of disposable income, lower net financial savings provide stimulus for aggregate demand and output in this case.

Secondly, when households finance higher tangible (physical) investment by increasing their borrowing or depleting their gross financial savings. The reduction in net financial savings in this case stimulates aggregate demand and output through the investment channel.

Third, when interest payment of a household increases say due to higher interest rates, households can meet the increased burden through borrowing or through depleting gross financial savings thereby inducing a reduction in net financial savings.

The first factor hardly played any role in the sharp reduction in gross financial savings in 2022-23 as the consumption to GDP ratio remained largely unchanged between 2021-22 (60.95%) and 2022-23 (60.93%). The second factor played only a limited role. While the gross financial savings to GDP ratio declined by 3 percentage points (7.3% to 5.3%) in 2022-23, household physical investment to GDP ratio increased only by 0.3 percentage point (12.6% to 12.9%) during the same period. Though higher borrowing is partly financed by interest income from financial assets, it can be largely attributed to higher interest payments of the household in the recent period.

Figure 2 reflects this phenomenon by depicting the trend in household borrowing to income ratio, debt to income ratio and the ratio between household physical savings and gross financial savings. The share of household borrowing in household (disposable) income registered a sharp spike in 2022-23. Such a rise in household liabilities was associated with a decline in the physical savings to financial savings ratio, indicating a change in household asset composition in favour of financial assets.

Implication of higher debt burden

The rise in household debt burden has two concerns for the macroeconomy.

The first concern is about debt repayment and financial fragility. Since the repayment capacity depends on the income flow, a key criterion for evaluating a household's debt sustainability is the difference between interest rate and the income growth rate. On the flip side, the interest payments from the households are the interest income of the financial sector. If households fail to meet their debt repayment commitments, then it reduces the income of the financial sector and deteriorates their balance sheets, which in turn can have a cascading effect on the macroeconomy if the latter responds by reducing their credit disbursement to the non-financial sector.

Figure 3 shows the difference between the weighted average lending rate of scheduled commercial banks and the growth rate of gross national income. Though the difference shows a declining trend since 2021-22, the indicator turned out to be negative in the 2023-24 period. The sharp reduction in interest rate and income growth gap is on account of lower income growth rate and higher lending rate of the commercial banks. The weighted average lending rate registered a sharp rise in the last two years, particularly due to the tight monetary policy stance of the RBI and the sharp rise in the call money rate during this period.

The second concern pertains to the implication on consumption demand. Over and above disposable income, the consumption expenditure of the household can be affected by their wealth, debt, and interest rate. Reduction in household wealth can lead to lower consumption expenditure as households may attempt to preserve their wealth position by increasing their savings.

Higher household debt can also reduce consumption expenditure in at least two ways. First, if higher household leverage is perceived as an indicator of higher default risk, then it may induce banks to indulge in credit rationing and reduce the credit disbursement. The consequent reduction in credit disbursement can adversely affect consumption. Second, higher debt can reduce consumption expenditure by increasing the interest burden, not to mention the effect of higher interest rates on consumption expenditure.

The Indian economy registered all these trends in the recent period. The financial wealth or the net worth of the household is the difference between the stock of financial assets and liabilities. As evident from figure 4, the financial wealth to GDP ratio of the household has registered a sharp decline in the recent period, along with a rise in leverage of the household as indicated by the rise in debt to net worth ratio. Not surprisingly, the growth rate in private final consumption expenditure during 2023-24 registered a sharp decline as compared to 2022-23.

Macroeconomic implication

The implications of the procyclical leverage by the households along with the compositional change in the asset side of the balance sheet, albeit with a fall in the level of savings, for the stability of economic growth is concerning.

First, given that both the flow indicator of liabilities to disposable income and the stock indicator of debt to net worth shows an increasing trend makes the households vulnerable.

Second, the policy mantra of higher interest rate to counter inflation by reducing macroeconomic output and employment can leave households with an increasing level of debt in their balance sheets and potentially push the households into a debt trap. Third, the implications of high interest rate on debt burden can have an adverse impact on the consumption of the households and consequently for aggregate demand.

The household balance sheet trends indicate a broader change in the structure of the economy. The change in composition of the asset side of the household balance sheet towards financial assets indicate some degree of financialisation of the economy which moves from a production-based economy to a monetary or financial exchange-based economy making the five-trillion-dollar economy both jobless and fragile.

Zico Dasgupta and Srinivas Raghavendra teach economics at Azim Premji University.

The rising debt burden

The household balance sheet trends indicate a broader change in the structure of the economy. The change in composition of the asset side of the household balance sheet towards financial assets indicate some degree of financialisation of the economy

Figure 1: Household savings, physical savings and financial savings as a share of GDP

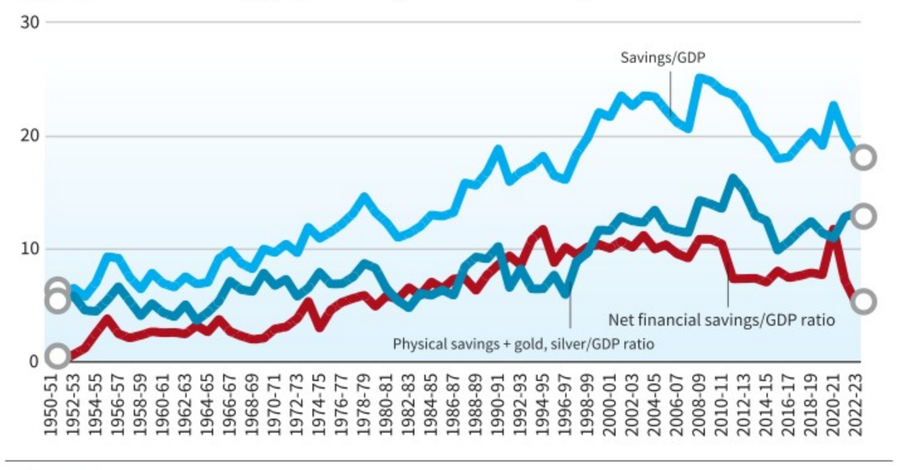


Figure 2: The household borrowing-income ratio, debt-income ratio and the ratio between household physical savings and gross financial savings

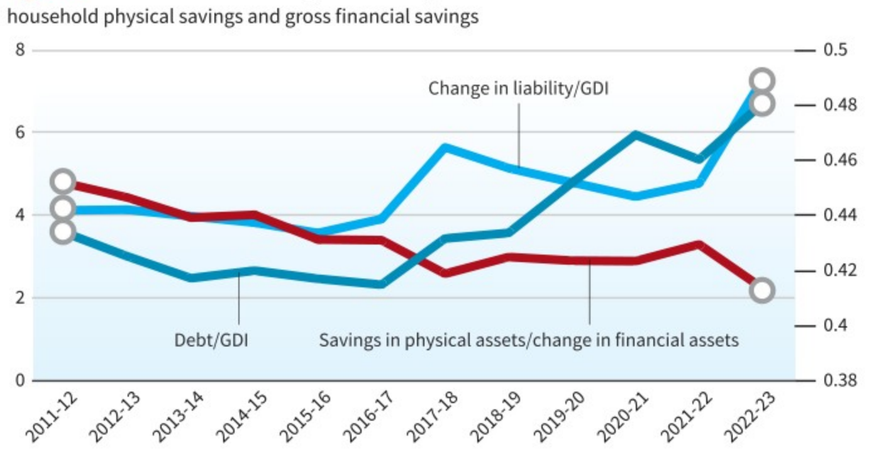


Figure 3: The gap between lending rate and interest rate-income growth

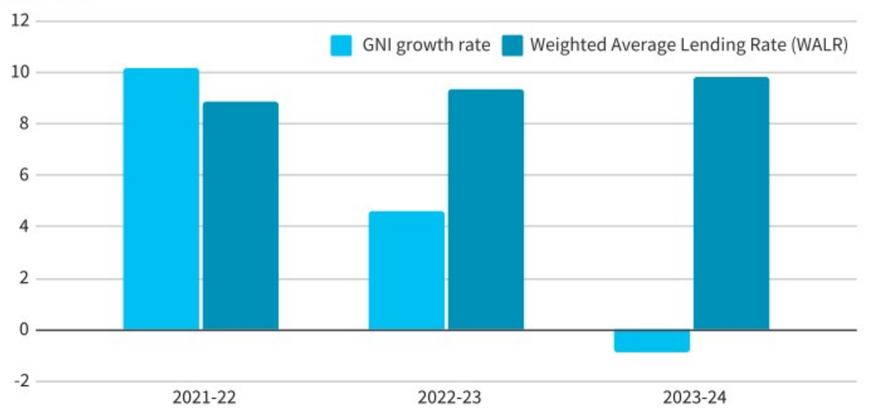
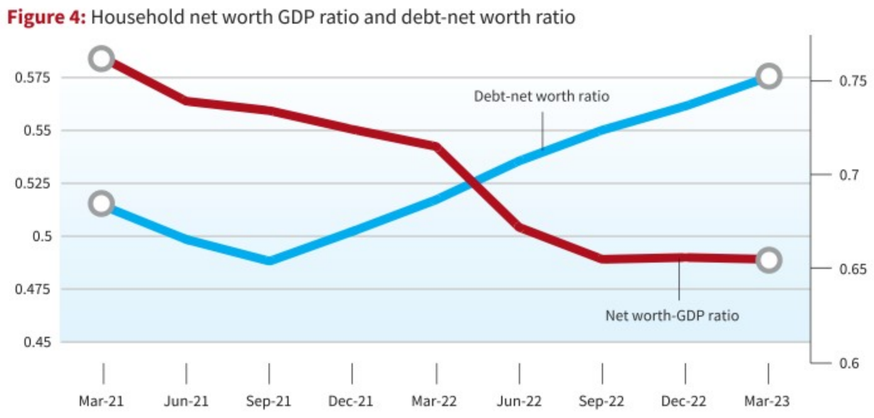


Figure 4: Household net worth GDP ratio and debt-net worth ratio



THE GIST

- The decline in household savings is brought about by a drastic reduction in net financial savings as the household net financial savings to GDP ratio attained a four-decade low.
- The rise in household debt burden has two concerns for the macroeconomy. The first concern is about debt repayment and financial fragility. Since the repayment capacity depends on the income flow, a key criterion for evaluating a household's debt sustainability is the difference between interest rate and the income growth rate.
- The second concern pertains to the implication on consumption demand. Over and above disposable income, the consumption expenditure of the household can be affected by their wealth, debt, and interest rate.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Salil Sahadevan

A love for the real

The current challenge in virtual learning is to address the increased longing for authentic and tangible learning experiences.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

You can learn a lot about pottery in an online class. Most of it is *about* pottery, not pottery as such. You miss the malleability of clay in your hands, the resistance felt while shaping it and the smell of clay.

Similarly, a virtual Geography course may be great but you miss the humidity of the rainforest and the chill at the mountaintop. Nuances that build empathy and subtleties of humour in learning are diluted. Once we know what we miss, even in the best virtual learning environments, we can factor in those aspects in the course designs.

Top virtual learning providers aim to mimic real-world experiences. But, an algorithmically designed linear set of instructions limits its effectiveness. Immersive technologies like VR and AR can bridge this gap to some degree. They may create a more engaging environment but might fall short when it comes to the hidden shades of the real world. So, it is important to see learning design through the lens of what cannot be done in virtual. It is the first step towards designing better online learning.

Hands-on virtual

While a virtual simulation can instruct you on gardening or farming techniques, it cannot replicate the feeling of soil between your fingers.

A virtual baking class offers knowledge of ingredients and steps for baking. Yet, you miss the distinctive aroma of freshly baked bread. This sensory experience, often taken for granted, is powerful in memory-making and emotion-building.

The sensory disconnect extends to sights, smells, and tastes that are central to sensory-motor skills. While replicating scents in the virtual space remains a future possibility, we must explore reintroducing sensory elements into the learning process.

Virtual environments often lack the innate unpredictability found in real-world learning. While a virtual Chemistry lab might simulate explosions, it fails to emulate the adrenaline rush (in a safe setting, of course) of a real experiment gone slightly wrong.

The true magic of learning often lies in the unexpected. In linear instructional design, you miss the opportunity to see ethical dilemmas in action and lack first-hand experience with data privacy concerns and the algorithmic bias of the AI world. The unexpectedness is a fertile ground for problem-solving and is difficult to develop in a controlled virtual world. Many masterpieces in science, technology, and literature stem from the unexpected and the messy.

A virtual baking class offers knowledge of ingredients and steps for baking but the distinctive aromas are missing. This sensory experience, often taken for granted, is powerful in memory-making and emotion-building. While replicating scents in the virtual space remains a future possibility, we must explore reintroducing sensory elements into the learning process.

Haptic labs and fitness apps

Imagine a Geology class where, using special gloves, students virtually explore rock formations, feeling the variations in texture that a screen cannot convey. Haptic learning labs can create this reality by adding a layer of realism.

The key question guiding instructional designers is: how can we incorporate real-world interaction without relying solely on screens? During the design stage of the course, provide spaces for unforeseen questions and divergent thinking for experimentation. It is okay to derail at times from a predetermined learning path that limits spontaneous exploration. When things get really messy, you really learn.

Beyond typical online activities like competitions, webinars, quizzes, and presentations, let students break the screen time. Embed short movement activities related to the lesson. Consider collecting and crowdsourcing local weather data, shadowing an experienced professional or documenting an art installation. Design such online challenges that send students on quests in their homes and neighbourhoods offline.

Just like fitness apps nudge you to move and do physical activity, design online lessons that get students off-screen. The screen should be a guide, a touch point, not the entire experience. Use unboxing exercises that involve sending kits for build-it challenges for science experiments.

Another option is to pro vide prepped canvases for collaborative online painting. Here, students follow online instructions, conduct the activity offline, and then share and compare results virtually. Doing citizen science projects that classify things, behaviours, or ideas in video clips, then heading outside to observe them in the backyard, street, or society can create a tangible connection between virtual and real worlds. Avenues for cultural immersion can be scaffolded using service learning, collaborative storytelling, and linking them with real-world communities of practice.

Cyberkinesthetics

No one ever found a new flower in an online botany course, no matter how immersive the technology is. Missing out on that thrill means losing a serendipitous moment that could have ignited a lifelong passion for flora. Pre-programmed experiences cannot replicate this spark. Thus, we require a new chapter in online experiential education where visuals and videos alone are insufficient, and engagement metrics are differently designed.

What we might term 'Cyberkinesthetics' could be an area of study on how virtual environments can be designed to engage our bodies and movement for learning. While cost, logistics and scaling present challenges, integrating authentic learning with consistent quality is a continuing pedagogical experiment. The use of technology to evoke the sense of touch in a virtual environment – let us name it 'digital tactility' – will be a core theme in education studies. In learning too, the body knows things that the mind does not remember.

(Views are personal)

The writer is Deputy Secretary with the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Transgender Scholarship
Eligibility: Open to transgender students in Classes 9 to 12 or pursuing UG/PG courses from any government/ private schools or open universities and have scored at least 50% marks in the previous academic year. Annual family income must not exceed ₹10 lakhs.
Rewards: Up to ₹40,000
Application: Online
Deadline: April 30
www.b4s.in/edge/USFB1

University of Kent India Women in Leadership Scholarship
Eligibility: Open to female students from and domiciled in India who have received a conditional or unconditional offer for a full-time taught Master's degree programme by the deadline.
Rewards: 50% of one-year's tuition fees
Application: Online
Deadline: May 24
www.b4s.in/edge/LPUK1

Sitaram Jindal Foundation Scholarship Scheme
Eligibility: Open to students in Classes 11-12, ITI, diploma, UG or PG courses who have met the minimum requirement in the previous qualifying exam.
Rewards: Up to ₹3,200 per month
Application: By post to: The Trustee, Sitaram Jindal Foundation, Jindal Nagar, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru - 560073.
Deadline: Round the year
www.b4s.in/edge/SJS2

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

More to read?
For more articles, columns, Off The Edge by Nandini Raman, and news on admissions, financial aid and new courses and other events in schools and colleges, visit: www.thehindu.com/education

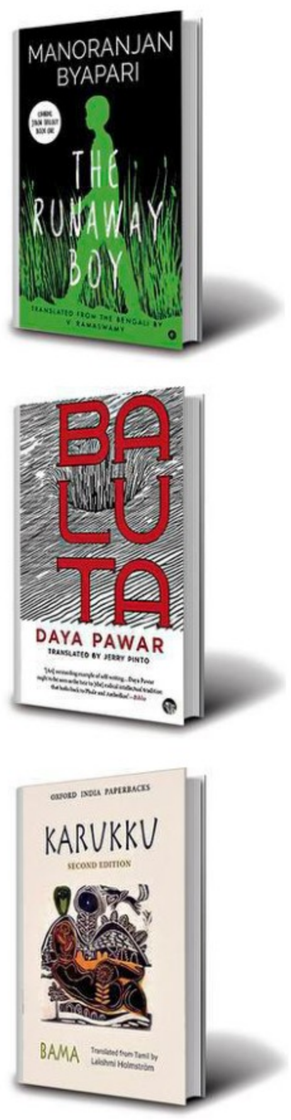
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2024-25
Ph.D.
SHRI J.J.T. UNIVERSITY
Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan (UGC Approved)
ELIGIBILITY : MASTER'S DEGREE IN ALL DISCIPLINES WITH 55% & ABOVE.
RESERVE CATEGORY WITH 50% AND ABOVE
CET will be online on 28th April 2024
Contact 98196 95239 93239 73505
Note: From June 2024 NET is compulsory for Ph.D. admission
E-mail : jjtu@jjtu.ac.in Website : www.jjtu.ac.in

IIBS BENGALURU
(AICTE Approved)
Redefining Leading Talents
16 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
NAAC A GRADE
Highest CGPA 3.20 in 4-Point Scale
Campus Placement :
PGDM 51 LPA
MBA 48 LPA
ADMISSIONS 2024 OPEN NOW
UG Courses
BBA + Business Analytics
BCA + Data science
BA+ IAS/ IPS
B.Com+ ACCA (United Kingdom)
UG+ MBA (5 year integrated program)
MBA / PGDM Dual Specialization
Marketing Management (MM)
Finance Management (FM)
Human Resource Management (HRM)
Business Analytics
Production & Operations Management
Entrepreneurship & Startups
Agri-Business Management
Supply Chain Management
Data Science
Fashion Designing
Tourism Management
International Business (Import-Export)
Information Technology
Healthcare Management
Hospitality Management
Free laptop and Free International tour
admission@iibsonline.com www.iibs.edu.in | www.iibsonline.com
99864 15333 / 96202 48214
Near International Airport, Bengaluru-562 157.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
Glamorous Careers...Glorious Future
Admissions Now Open for 2024
Courses Offered:
BSc in Fashion & Apparel Design
Duration: 3 Years | Eligibility Criteria: PUC
Affiliated To: Bangalore University
Masters in Fashion Management
Duration: 2 Years | Eligibility Criteria: Degree (Any Discipline)
Affiliated To: Karnataka State Women's University
PG / Diploma in Fashion Design & Boutique Management
Duration: 1 Year | Eligibility Criteria: SSLC /PUC
Affiliated To: Karnataka State Women's University
PG / Diploma in Fashion Styling & Communications
Duration: 1 Year | Eligibility Criteria: SSLC /PUC
Affiliated To: Karnataka State Women's University
PG / Diploma in Interior Design & Decoration
Duration: 1 Year | Eligibility Criteria: SSLC /PUC
Affiliated To:Jawaharlal Nehru Technical Education
Short Term, Weekend & Online Courses
Top Recruiters
CENTRAL FLYING MACHINE WILDCRAFT ARROW USA·1851 Reliance RETAIL SHAHI pantaloons
Scan for More Details
Expert Faculty
Award Winning College
Gold Medalists at University Level
100% Placement Assistance
For Details Contact: 9008600952 / 9008900075 / 9008900074 / 9008600953
admissions@iiftbangalore.com | iiftbangalore.com

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A brighter future: A young boy posing like Ambedkar during Ambedkar Jayanti, in Sangareddy in 2019. FILE PHOTO



Dalit literature: decoding voices of resistance and despair

In Dalit History Month, reading multiple Indian language writers who help us to understand the history of suffering of the marginalised people in their struggle for equality in a caste-ridden, deeply hierarchical society

Soma Basu

Caste discrimination and untouchability have run unchecked in our country for decades even though constitutional law provides for the protection of the most vulnerable people. If poverty, as often quoted, has made it easy for subjugation to continue, it also gave birth to people who have given themselves to struggles against race and ethnicity and championed civil rights movements.

Though limited within the form, the protest literature that emerged from the exploitation and exclusion of Dalit communities, lent a new voice and identity to the marginalised. Over the decades, Dalit literature has become an empowering case for social equality and human dignity, and enriched and diversified Indian literature, ushering in fresh perspectives.

Towards inclusivity

Treated as a strong and separate category of literature in many Indian languages by literary associations, the documentation of Dalit history and experiences has contributed to a more inclusive understanding of the community.

The power of language of Dalit writers has challenged oppression, shaped consciousness, and sparked awareness and empathy. Small victories may have gained recognition, but it is pertinent to explore literature because it traces and enables connections with global histories of racism and social exclusion and unifies the need for advocacy for change.

The writings of one of the most iconic Dalit writers in the history of India, B.R. Ambedkar, including his *Annihilation of Caste* (1936) and *The Untouchables: Who Were They and Why They Became Untouchables* (1948), are eye-openers. He explains caste is not simply a social evil, but a hierarchy, a system of persistent graded inequality, and that Dalit is not a caste but a realisation that is related to the experiences, sorrows and struggles of those in the lowest strata of society. The books provide instances of tyrannical practices against them (by upper caste Hindus) to awaken society to the caste system as Ambedkar always argued for social reforms over religion and politics.

Ambedkar: A Life (2022) by Shashi Tharoor is a deeply researched insight into Ambedkar's birth into a family of Mahars, the humiliation and hurdles he overcame to fight the stigma against his community, his determination to make untouchability illegal and how he invested himself in an India with modern concepts of social justice.

Translated works have played a crucial role in making Dalit literature available to a wider audience. Gopinath Mohanty's *Harijan* (1948) in Odiya is a radical novel of the 20th century featuring the life story of the Mehentars who lived in slums and were allowed to only do the job of cleaning latrines with bare hands. The hard-hitting story was translated into English by Bikram Das in 2021.

People on the margins

Baluta by Daya Pawar is said to be the first Dalit autobiography published in Marathi in 1978. It caused a sensation as it was a rare documentation of life in rural Maharashtra and life in the slums, chawls and gambling dens of Bombay that gave shocking details of caste violence and untouchability practised in the 1940s and '50s. A bestseller in Hindi and other major languages, it was also translated into English in 2015 by Jerry Pinto.

Three years later, he translated another revealing book, *Jevha Mi Jaat Chorli Hoti* (1963), a collection of short stories by Baburao Bagul in Marathi, that revolutionised Dalit literature. The author talked about the pain, rage and horror of people on the margins as it was, refusing to understate the vicious and inhumane centuries old caste system. In the English translation, *When I Hid My Caste*, Pinto carries the irony and melancholy of the original stories.

Jina Amucha (1986), the first autobiography by a Dalit Woman, Baby Kamble, is also a powerful tale of redemption that reveals the inner world of Mahars, the oppressive caste and the prevalent patriarchal tenets. Translated into English by Maya Pandit in 2008, *The Prisons We Broke* is a feminist critique of Brahminical Hinduism and the memoir of cursed people. It unapologetically highlights the rituals and superstitions and the hard lives of women of Maharwada.

Bama's *Karukku* (1992), chronicles her daily lived reality as a Tamil Dalit nun and is the first autobiography by a Dalit woman in Tamil. Translated into English by Lakshmi Holmstrom (2000), it reveals her courage to take on shame and her constant search for a sense of belonging and a connection to something meaningful. Tamil author Perumal Murugan's third novel *Koolamaathaari* (2000) deals with the travails of a young Dalit goatherd who is bonded to work for a family to repay his father's debts.

Manoranjan Byapari has written *Chandal Jibon*, a triology in Bengali, evocatively tracing the story of a Dalit boy who arrives at a refugee camp in Bengal with his parents as a toddler and grows up to lead a life of fear, grappling with disparities and the evastating realities of hunger, caste violence and communal hatred in mid-20th century Bengal. The first two parts are translated into English by V. Ramaswamy as *The Runaway Boy* and *The Nemesis*.

Life as an untouchable

In the Hindi book *Joothan*, Omprakash Valmiki describes his life as an untouchable in India of the 1950s, when he was forced to eat scraps of leftover food and faced ridicule and deprivation. A major contribution to the archives of Dalit history, the book has been translated into *Seasons of the Palm* by Anu Prabha Mukherjee.

Meena Kandasamy along with M. Nisar has translated the Malayalam book *Ayyankali* (2022) into English, which talks about the life of social reformer and Dalit leader Ayyankali from Kerala in 1863-1941 when he opposed caste practices and fought for the rights of the oppressed.

There is a rich tapestry of books available respecting Dalit rights. These books roar with the message of inclusivity and are relevant in present times when there seems to be a lack of understanding for the marginalised.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I caught her eavesdropping on us today

She is the heir to the business and wants to be informed about all events in the office

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'eavesdrop'? (J. Banerjee, Kolkata)

The word consists of two syllables; the 'eave' in the first, sounds like the word 'eve', and the following 's' is pronounced like the 'z' in 'zip', 'zoo' and 'zen'. The second syllable is pronounced like the word 'drop'. The word is pronounced 'EVEZ-drop', with the stress on the first syllable. When you eavesdrop on someone, you are secretly listening to an individual's private conversation. It is a deliberate act, and it is for this reason that the word carries with it a sense of disapproval.

The kids were trying to eavesdrop on their parents' conversation.

In the past, it was common practice to build a house with a sloping roof. This was done to ensure that when it rained, the water did not collect on the roof, but merely slid off and landed some distance away from the house. In order to achieve this, the roof was extended beyond the external walls of the house, and the portions which extended beyond the walls were called 'eaves'. The word comes from the Old English 'efes' meaning 'edge of a roof'. Eavesdrop was first used to refer to the place around the house where the water from the eaves dripped. So, the original 'eavesdropper' was someone who stood under the eaves and listened to the conversation inside the house.

What is the difference between 'inquire' and 'enquire'?

The two words come from the Latin 'quaere' meaning 'to ask'. Another word, which has a similar meaning, is 'query'. The British make a distinction between the two verbs, 'inquire' and 'enquire'. They use the word 'enquire' in mostly informal contexts; when they pose a very general question and request for information in a casual manner.

The elderly gentleman enquired when the bookstore would open.

In British English, the use of the word 'inquire' suggests that there is a formal investigation of some kind.

The police are inquiring into the activities of the gang members.

The Americans keep matters simple – they use only 'inquire' in all contexts. 'Enquire' is avoided.

What is the correct pronunciation of 'heir'? (S. Lavanya, Chennai)

Native speakers of English pronounce it like the word 'air' – the letter 'h' remains silent. 'Heir' comes from the Old French 'oir' meaning 'successor'. Nowadays, the word is mostly used to refer to a person who legally inherits money, property, etc. from a deceased individual – for example, the son or daughter inheriting the father's or mother's wealth.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Mahavira, whose birth anniversary was celebrated on April 21

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Mahavira is the 24th and latest Tirthankara in Jainism. Who was his spiritual predecessor?

QUESTION 2
The son of Siddhartha and Trishala, Mahavira's birth and death place are located in which present-day Indian State?

QUESTION 3
Mahavira is said to belong to the same dynasty as Rama. Name it.

QUESTION 4
At which age is Mahavira said to have achieved the 'Kevala Jnana' under a Sal tree on the banks of the Rijubalika river?

QUESTION 5
What is common to Indrabhuti Gautama, Vayubhuti, Arya Vyakta, Sudharman, Manditaputra?

QUESTION 6
Which Nobel Laureate said this of Mahavira: "Mahavira proclaimed in India that religion is a reality and not a mere social convention. It is really true that salvation can not be had by merely observing external ceremonies. Religion cannot make any difference between man and man."

Visual question:
What is this universal symbol of Jainism called?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The chairman of the ISRO who was initially against the agreement for 'Aryabhata' with the Soviet Union. **Ans: M.G.K. Menon**
2. The USSR in 1984 issued a postage stamp featuring Aryabhata and these two Indian satellites. **Ans: Bhaskara-I and Bhaskara-II**
3. The area on the outskirts of Bengaluru selected as the location for the Indian Scientific Satellite Project. **Ans: Peenya**
4. In 1972, there was strong opposition to moving equipment from the Satellite Systems Division in this city to the new Bengaluru facility. **Ans: Thiruvananthapuram**
5. In March 1975, a panel recommended three names for the satellite. One was 'Aryabhata' and these were the other two. **Ans: Jawahar' and 'Maitri'**
Visual: Name the source. **Ans: Cygnus X-1**
Early Bird: Mohd. Amaan

Word of the day

Gingerly:
with extreme care or delicacy

Synonym: cautious

Usage: *They walked gingerly on the jagged stones.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/gingerlypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdʒɪn(d)ʒəli/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Four-year-old boy killed after lorry runs over him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A four-year-old boy was killed after he was run over by a vehicle while crossing the busy Mysuru-Bengaluru road in Ramohalli under Kumbalgodu police station limits on Saturday. The victim, Ayush, was the son of Amar and Pooja, a couple from Uttar Pradesh. Amar had come to Ramohalli to work as a wall painter.

According to the police, the couple had come to a shop in Ramohalli. While Pooja was busy talking to the shopkeeper, Amar crossed the road to buy chocolates for the children.

Meanwhile, Ayush slipped away from Pooja's hand to go to his father and was crossing the road, when the lorry ran over Ayush. The driver did not notice Ayush and ran over him, the police said.

Passers-by confronted the driver and beat him up, and then damaged the lorry before handing him over to the police.

RBL BANK LTD
Registered Office: 1 st Lane, Shahupuri, Kolhapur-416001
Regional Office: Hansalaya Building, Upper Ground Floor, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110 001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("Rules")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Guarantor (s) and Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged (collectively referred as "**Property**") to RBL Bank Ltd. ("**Secured Creditor/Bank**"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with the Rules, as detailed hereunder, will be sold on "**As is where is**", "**As is what is**", "**Whatever there is**" and "**Without Recourse Basis**" on **30.05.2024**, for recovery of the amount as detailed hereunder under Rules 8 and 9 of the Rules by inviting bids as per below e-auction schedule:

Name of the Borrower, Mortgagor and Guarantor (s)	Details of Property	Date of Demand, Possession and Sale Notice under SARFAESI Act / Outstanding dues and details of live Existing Bank Guarantee	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Date and Time of e-Auction	Last Date for Receipt of Bids along with EMD & documents	Name of Authorised Officer/Phone No./Email Id
1. M/s. Future Consumer Limited ("Borrower") **(Erstwhile M/s. Future Consumer Enterprise Limited)** Registered address:Knowledge House, Shyam Nagar, Off Jogeshwari Vikhroli Link Road, Jogeshwari (E), Mumbai 400 060 Also at: 505, 5th Floor, #34 DLF Industrial Area, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 317, Near Moti Nagar Metro Station, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi 110 015 **2. Mr. Kishore Biyani ("Guarantor")** 406, Jeevan Vihar, Manav Mandir Road, Malabar Road, Mumbai 400 006 Also at: 5th Floor, Sobo Central, 28, PT. Madan Mohan Malviya Road, Tardeo, Mumbai 400 034 **3.M/s. Appu Nutritions Private Limited ("Mortgagor")** Registered address at: No. 35, 3rd Floor, Next to Hotel Vaibhav, Kanakapura main road, near Yediyur lake, Basavanagudi, Bangalore South,Karnataka, India, 560 004. Also at: Joseph Chemmanur Hall, 1st Cross, 1st Stage, Indiranagar, Bangaluru 560 038	Land and building being all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Plot No. 13 situated in Veerasandra Industrial Area, formed in Sy. Nos. 28, 29 & 30, Veerasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring in all 44116 Sq. Ft. (4100 Sq. Mtrs.), consisting of Ground Floor, mezzanine Floor and First Floor, measuring on the North 121.50 Mtrs., on the South 126 Mtrs., on the East 33.60 Mtrs. And on the West 32.60 Mtrs., together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: EAST by: Private Land WEST by: Road NORTH by: Plot No. 12 SOUTH by: A Portion of Plot No. 26	**Date of Demand Notice:** 14th November 2022 **Date of Possession Notice:** 23rd January 2024 **Date of Sale Notice:** 12th March, 2024. **INR 60,75,66,235.49 (Rupees Sixty Crore Seventy Five Lacs Sixty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five and Paisa Forty Nine Only),** outstanding as on 31.10.2022, along with further interest thereon from 01.11.2022, plus penal and other interest and amounts as per the loan and security documents, till payment thereof. **However, Property is subject to the charge INR 17,95,52,895.98 (Rupees Seventeen Crore Ninety Five Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five and Ninety eight Paisa only)** outstanding as on 31.10.2022 along with further interest thereon from 01.11.2022, plus penal and other interest and amounts as per the loan and security documents till complete payment and/or realisation	09-05-2024 from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. with prior intimation to the Authorised Officer	Rs 14.39 crore / INR1.44 Cr / INR 10 Lakh	**30.05.2024** from 11.00 A.M. to 1.00 PM. The time may be extended further as may be required till the finality of e-auction	**29.05.2024** before 5 P.M.	Mr. Ratnesh Shukla 8369108176 ratnesh.shukla@rblbank.com

Interested bidders may note that to the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there are no encumbrances on the Property:
However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of Property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the Property, prior to submitting their bid.

Terms and Conditions:

(1)The E-Auction Sale will be online through e-auction portal. The interested bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of auction available on the website of https://www.bankeauctions.com and https://www.rblbank.com/pdf-pages/news before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction.
(2)It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the Property and specification before submitting the bid.
(3)The interested bidders shall submit their EMD details and documents through Web Portal: https://www.bankeauctions.com (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with https://www.bankeauctions.com) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT/ RTGS in the following Account of RBL BANK Ltd:- Auction Proceeds Collection GL, Account No 2599109900130047 (IFSC Code RATN0000990), before 5:00 PM on or before 29.05.2024.
(4)Interested bidders may avail support/ online training on E-Auction from **M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd** Contact No: 124-4302020/21/22/23, 7291981124/25/26. Contact Person Mr. Vinod Chauhan Mob No: 9813887931, e-mail-Id: delhi@c1india.com and for any query in relation to Property, they may contact Mr. Ratnesh Shukla, Authorised Officer (Mob.No. 8369108176) email: Ratnesh.shukla@rblbank.com).
(5)The Authorised Officer of the Bank reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel the e-auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final and binding.
The Borrower, Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) have failed to comply with the Sale Notice dated 12.03.2024 issued by the Bank and redeem the Property. In view thereof, the Property shall be sold by way of e-auction.

Date: 22.04.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
For RBL Bank Ltd.

THE HINDU GROUP
As the youngest voters this Lok Sabha Election, we solemnly swear we do not think the sun rises in the west, money grows on trees, 'the south' is a single state or that the Parliament is a club.
Since everyone thinks we need to be told what we already know, we thought it was best to clarify.
Yes, we know we must vote.
See you at the polls.
THE HINDU
Express your voting spirit!
Scan, snap, and post with
#SeeYouAtThePolls
The next time you see an ad that states the obvious and reminds you of your civic responsibility, just comment #SeeYouAtThePolls.

CMR UNIVERSITY
Private University Estd in Karnataka State by Act No. 45 of 2013
BENGALURU

Create The Future

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
B.Arch.
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
B.Tech.
• CSE • CSE (AI & ML) • CSE(Data Science) • CE NEW • CST NEW • IT • ECE
M.Tech. (For Regular and Professionals) • CSE • AI
Ph.D. CSE (AI & ML, Networking and Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Data Science and Internet of Things) • ECE • Mechanical Engineering
SCHOOL OF DESIGN
B.Des.
• Communication Design • Product Design • Fashion Design • Interior Design
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES
(Formerly School of Social Science & Humanities)
B.A. / B.A (Hons)* (Major + Minor)
• Psychology • English • Journalism • Economics • Political Science • History • Sociology • Media Studies • Travel & Tourism NEW
B.Sc. | Psychology
M.Sc. | Psychology • Clinical • Counselling • Human Resource Development and Management
Ph.D. | Psychology
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & COMMERCE
B.Com. / B.Com. (Hons.)*
• General • International Accounting & Finance • Professional - CA Integrated • Data Science NEW • Certified Management Accountant (US CMA) NEW
Ph.D. | Economics • Commerce
SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES
B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) / B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
LL.B.
LL.M. | Constitutional Law • Commercial Law • Criminal Law NEW / Ph.D. | Law
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & COMPUTER STUDIES
(Formerly School of Science Studies)
BCA / BCA (Hons)* • General • Cloud Computing • Data Science • Game Development
B.Sc. | Sound Engineering • Visual Effects & Animation • Information Technology NEW
M.Sc. | Information Technology in Data Science NEW
MCA
Ph.D. | Computer Application
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
BBA / BBA (Hons.)*
• General • Digital Marketing • Business Analytics
MBA with Dual Specialisation in • Marketing • HR • Finance • Business Analytics • Digital Marketing • Supply Chain Management
MBA | Business Analytics & Business Intelligence NEW
Executive MBA | Product Leadership
Ph.D. | Management
*Honours degree is 4 years and optional, subjected to government norms.

Registrations Open
CMRUAT
Providing opportunities to get scholarship worth 12 Crores

CMRU Accelerated Credits
STAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION
APPLY TODAY
to get trained and certified for FREE in niche courses
SCAN AND GET 25% IN APPLICATION FEES

PGCET code: MBA (City Campus) - B150
MBA (OMBR Campus) - B149 | MBA (Lakeside Campus) - B395
MCA (OMBR Campus) - C527 | MCA (Lakeside Campus) - C521
CET codes: B.Tech. - E257 | B.Arch. - E245
We honour JEE, Comedk, and all National-level tests.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
CMRIT
CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BENGALURU.
CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Permanently affiliated to VTU | Approved by AICTE
Recognised by the Govt. of Karnataka | Accredited by NAAC with A++ grade NBA Accredited | NIRF Ranked.
B.E. | CSE | CSE (AI & ML) | AI & DS | AI & ML CSE (Data Science) | ISE | ECE
MBA | MCA
Ph.D. | CSE | ECE | EEE | Mechanical | Civil Physics | Mathematics | Chemistry Business Administration | Computer Applications
B.E : CET code - E097
ComedK code - E032
PGCET code : MCA - C420MC
MBA - B151MB
www.cmrit.ac.in
admission@cmrit.ac.in
SCAN FOR DETAILS

+91 93429 00666
admissions@cmr.edu.in
www.cmr.edu.in
Lakeside Campus: Off Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, Chagalahatti, Bengaluru - 562 149
City Campus: #2, 3rd Cross, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043
OMBR Campus: No.5, Bhuvanagiri, OMBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043
CMRIT Campus: 132, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 037

LORD SRI KRISHNA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST
SRI KRISHNA PU COLLEGE
ITI Layout, Near Vidyapeeta Circle, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560 085
MARCH - 2024 EXAM RESULTS 100%
NO OF STUDENTS APPEARED - 236
DISTINCTIONS 65
I CLASS 124
II CLASS 47

PUC-SCIENCE DISTINCTION HOLDERS - 37
VISHNU S BHARADWAJ 98.33%
590 / 600
STATE 9TH PLACE

PUC-COMMERCE DISTINCTION HOLDERS - 28
TEJASWINI R 98%
588 / 600
STATE 10TH PLACE

MANAGEMENT CONGRATULATES THE STAFF & THE STUDENTS
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 2024-25
PUC/B.COM/BBA/BCA (B.COM-EVENING)
For more details Contact:
98447 84320 / 99453 30589

State to have 1,832 special polling booths

The State will have 1,832 special polling booths this time which will represent the quintessential culture of the area or unique issues, according to Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena.

Citing an example, he said there would be a total of 1,120 polling booths at a rate of five per Assembly constituency which would be dedicated to women voters. These booths will have only women personnel including the police and group-D workers.

Similarly, there will be 224 booths in the State at a rate of one per Assembly constituency that focus on specially abled persons. Such booths will have specially abled officials.

Similarly, there will be 224 booths dedicated to youth that will have young official.

There will be 1,120 polling booths at a rate of five per Assembly constituency dedicated to women. FILE PHOTO

BJP alleges security breach during PM's visit

Alleging that there was a security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on Saturday, the BJP on Sunday complained to the Election Commission, seeking action against Youth Congress president Mohammed Nalapad and his associate Siddapura Johny, an alleged rowdy sheeter, for protesting with empty vessels by breaching security protocol on C.V. Raman Road.

"It shows that the State government had instigated the protest and *chembu* (empty vessels) were brought to the spot with the help of police that shows involvement of the officials," the complaint said. The party urged the commission to impose ban on Mr. Nalapad from election campaign and banish Johny from the State till elections are over.

"Narendra Modi, it was your govt. that gave 'chembu' when asked to approve Mekedatu project, which could have provided water to Bengaluru.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

Cocaine seized in Bengaluru Central segment

During the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, Baiyappanahalli police team in Bengaluru have seized 185 gm of cocaine, valued at ₹46.25 lakh, and 45 gm of ecstasy tablets valued at ₹3.27 lakh in C.V. Raman Nagar, which comes under Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency.

"Siddaramaiah govt. has taken away the guarantee of right to life of Kannadigas, as attacks, murders and robberies have increased.

B.S. YEDIYURAPPA
Former Chief Minister

Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda visiting the Hiremath family in Hubballi on Sunday. KIRAN BAKALE

Nadda visits Neha's parents, seeks probe by CBI into case

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern over the attacks on women in Karnataka, Bharatiya Janata Party national president J.P. Nadda visited the parents of Neha, who was recently murdered on her college premises in Hubballi, and demanded a probe by the CBI into the case.

Just five days left for the elections to 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, the BJP State unit too has decided to up the ante by holding a Statewide protest on Monday against the recent episodes of attacks on women and alleging law and order failure in the Congress regime.

Neha, daughter of Niranjan Hiremath who is the councillor of HDMC and Congress leader, was murdered by a Muslim youth who the police said had resorted to such a brutal measure as she started avoiding him after a brief friendship. However, her parents have alleged that she was murdered for turning down his love.

Mr. Nadda, who visited the victim's house and spoke to her parents, said: "We have reason to believe that the murder probe will not be proper and transparent if the Karnataka police do it. It is because the statements by the Chief Minister and Home Minister are likely to influence probe and derail it. Congress Ministers in Karnataka are giving statements that amount to appeasing the minorities. They could influence the investigation. The State police are incompetent. A CBI probe, however, will be impartial and bring out the truth. Even the victim's father who is a Congress leader has no faith in the State government. He requested me to hand over the case to the CBI."

Mr. Nadda, who consoled the grieving parents, said: "This is a heartbreaking incident and the people of Karnataka will not forgive this. Our sympathies are with them. I told the parents that the whole country is with them."

'Women not safe'

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra remarked that women were not safe under the Congress regime and "violence, crime and murders" were the guarantees that the Congress government had given to the peace-loving citizens of the State.

His father and BJP Parliamentary Board Member B.S. Yediyurappa expressed concern over the increasing incidents of attack against women in the Congress regime and accused the government of trying to protect the accused rather than giving a free hand to the police to investigate.

He said the Siddaramaiah government that had given various poll guarantees had actually taken away the guarantee of right to life of Kannadigas.

DKS promises action

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday spoke to Neha's father over phone and expressed condolences to the family. Promising legal action against the culprit, he said that the government was with the family during this time of grief.

He also informed the victim's father that he was unable to visit the family owing to tight election schedule and promised to visit the family after elections.

'Implementation of guarantees alone cannot usher in development of State'

People give top priority to development while judging achievements of the government and guarantee schemes come later, says BJP State president

INTERVIEW

B.Y. Vijayendra

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party State president B.Y. Vijayendra strongly argues that implementation of guarantee schemes alone cannot be seen as ushering in development of the State by the Congress government in Karnataka.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, he said people give top priority to development while judging the achievements of the government and that the guarantee schemes come later. He alleges that development works have come to a standstill ever since Congress came to power in the State. Excerpts:

Bharatiya Janata Party State president B.Y. Vijayendra during an interaction. K. MURALI KUMAR

What are the main issues for BJP in Karnataka for the Lok Sabha polls?

Performance of the Narendra Modi government is the main poll issue on the basis of which we are seeking votes. His popularity is our asset. At the same time, State government's non-performance is also a poll issue as there are no signs of development in the State.

The Congress is confident that its guarantee schemes will help it sail through the polls.

If Chief Minister Siddaramaiah feels that implementation of the guarantee schemes itself is the achievement of the government, I will not agree with it. What people expect from any government is development. The guarantee schemes come later. It is a joke to say that 1.20 crore families in the State have come out of poverty in less than a year of implementation of guarantee schemes. If this is the yardstick, then how many crores of families should have come out of poverty as the Congress ruled the country for 60 years.

The Congress leaders say that guarantees have ensured women's empowerment. Do you agree?

Has the Congress government done anything for women's security in the State? A girl was recently murdered in daylight in Hubballi and another woman was stripped in Belagavi during last December. I do not say that such things had not happened earlier. But how you respond to such situations are an indication of your commitment. When the Belagavi stripping incident happened, the Chief Minister did not dare to visit the victim though he was very much present in Belagavi for the legislature session.

What is your take on the Congress' charges that BJP government at the Centre has meted out injustice to Karnataka in terms of devolution of central funds and taxes besides delaying drought assistance?

The BJP at the Centre has not done injustice to any State, including Karnataka. Mr. Modi has laid a strong foundation in the last 10 years for the country's vibrant future. We will reap these benefits in the days to come.

If the Centre had not given funds to Karnataka, then how could the State take up smart city, metro rail, railway track doubling, railway electrification and national highway works?

The Congress which came to power with a thumping majority in the State was under the illusion that it would win 18 to 20 Lok Sabha seats. But now they have now realised that it is not possible due to Mr. Modi's popularity, the development undertaken by him in the last years and Ram Mandir issue. Hence they are targeting the Centre now.

How many seats is the BJP hoping to win this time?

Definitely we will win 23 to 24 seats. We have 50:50 chances in the remaining seats too.

Those who were denied ticket, including Eshwarappa, are blaming your father...

It is unfortunate and painful that a veteran leader like K.S. Eshwarappa is contesting as a rebel after his son was denied ticket. None of the State leaders have any role in it.

Will the Lok Sabha poll results have any impact on Congress government in Karnataka?

As a responsible Opposition, the BJP does not want any political uncertainty as the elections have been held only about 10 months ago.

But it is a fact that everyone including the Congress and Mr. Siddaramaiah are curious to know whether Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar continues to keep quiet after the Lok Sabha polls instead of trying to become Chief Minister.

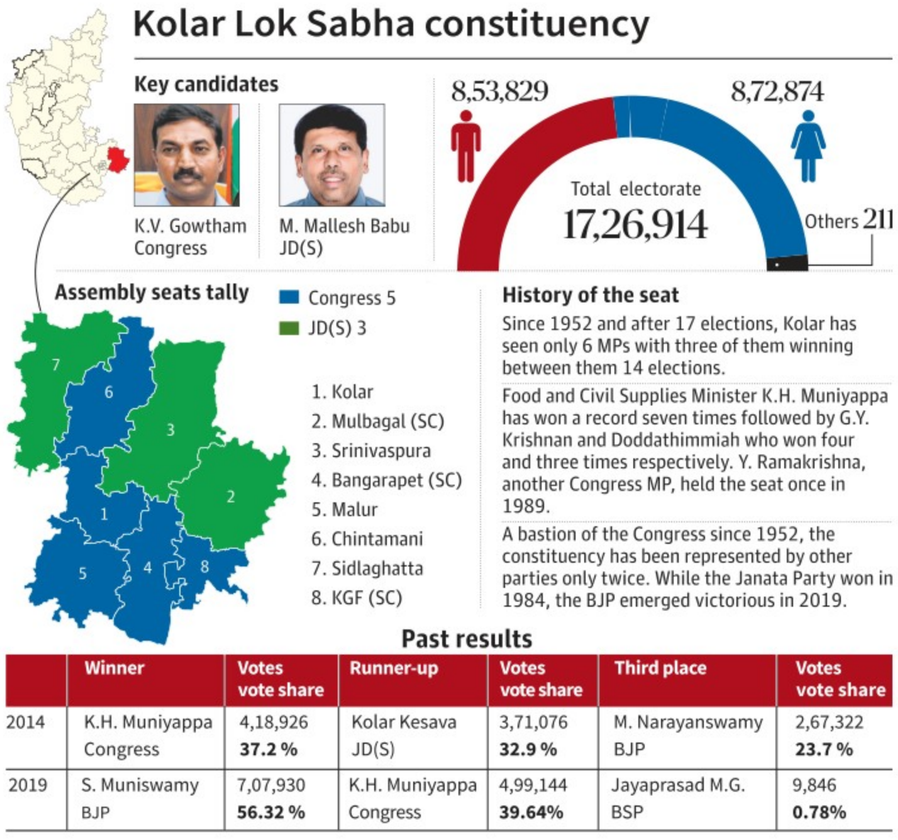
Unkept promises rankle in this land of gold mines

Sharath S. Srivatsa
KOLAR

The rail coach factory for which foundation stone had been laid in 2014, between Srinivasapura and Mulbagil, but scrapped later, is one of the many instances of broken promises for Kolar, says Raghunandan Reddy, a retired teacher in Srinivasapura, which is famous for mangoes. "There are no employment avenues as there are no factories. Promises of setting up mango processing centre has not been realised," he points out at election promises of the past for Kolar remaining on paper.

Congress here has fielded K.V. Gowtham to take on M. Mallesh Babu of the Janata Dal (Secular) in the Kolar Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr. Gowtham's candidature has been seen as a compromise between the Congress factions led by former Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar and seven-time MP and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa. The deeply divided Congress's Kolar unit witnessed a rebellion of sorts with five of its lawmakers threatening to resign in protest against moves of Mr. Muniyappa to field his son-in-law. The sulking Minister is yet to hit the campaign trail though the Congress posed a united front bringing all squabbling leaders on stage at Malur where Rahul Gandhi addressed a rally. The Janata Dal (Secular), which is contesting in three seats as part of seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP, had to hard bargain with its partner for the seat that is held by incumbent BJP MP S. Muniswamy.


Kolar Lok Sabha constituency
Key candidates
K.V. Gowtham
Congress
M. Mallesh Babu
JD(S)
8,53,829
8,72,874
Total electorate
17,26,914
Others 211
Assembly seats tally
Congress 5
JD(S) 3
1. Kolar
2. Mulbagal (SC)
3. Srinivaspura
4. Bangarapet (SC)
5. Malur
6. Chintamani
7. Sidlaghatta
8. KGF (SC)
History of the seat
Since 1952 and after 17 elections, Kolar has seen only 6 MPs with three of them winning between them 14 elections.
Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa has won a record seven times followed by G.Y. Krishnan and Doddathimmiah who won four and three times respectively. Y. Ramakrishna, another Congress MP, held the seat once in 1989.
A bastion of the Congress since 1952, the constituency has been represented by other parties only twice. While the Janata Party won in 1984, the BJP emerged victorious in 2019.

Past results

	Winner	Votes vote share	Runner-up	Votes vote share	Third place	Votes vote share
2014	K.H. Muniyappa Congress	4,18,926 **37.2 %**	Kolar Kesava JD(S)	3,71,076 **32.9 %**	M. Narayanswamy BJP	2,67,322 **23.7 %**
2019	S. Muniswamy BJP	7,07,930 **56.32 %**	K.H. Muniyappa Congress	4,99,144 **39.64%**	Jayaprasad M.G. BSP	9,846 **0.78%**

Issues in KGF

In Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), the issue of wage settlement of about 3,000 employees of the gold mine, many of whom have already died, still rages. People like Ilangovan and Purushotham, whose families are yet to be compensated, are hopeful that they would be "adequately paid" after a "foreign company" wins the bid to recover residual gold from the processed ore. "Thousands travel from Marikuppam railway station here to Bengaluru daily in search of work with no employment avenues in KGF. There is a false hope that mines would be reopened," said Prakash, a part-time actor who has worked in both blockbuster hits of *KGF* franchise and is an autorickshaw driver.

Currently, of the eight Assembly segments, including three reserved constituencies, in Kolar Lok Sabha constituency, the Congress and JD (S) have five MLAs and JD (S) three respectively. Believed to have the highest Scheduled Caste voters among the constituencies in India, the SC (right) form the highest electorate in Kolar.

Here, the big Vokkaliga, Muslim, SC (Left) and Kuruba population will have an important say in the electoral outcome. The Congress's candidate is from SC (left), while the JD (S) candidate is a Bhovi, a touchable caste among the SCs. Though BJP does not have a large voter base, the party polled over a lakh votes combined across eight Assembly constituencies in the recent elections.

Impact of agriculture

Despite a four-decade record drought, agriculture activities in most parts have not stopped here. In Kolar district, even during normal monsoon years, financially better off farmers depend on deep borewells. Those with smaller holdings double as labourers locally, which is seasonal. Apart from growing vegetables, farmers take to sericulture and animal husbandry.

"We grow the best quality mangoes. This year, the output has dropped by 70%. Yet farmers have not received adequate drought compensation," said mango grower Ramamurthy in Srinivaspura.

However, those in favour of guarantees like poor landless women labourers, small farmers unable to sink borewells for its prohibitive cost and roadside tea stall vendors, whose numbers are big in the constituency, spoke of its benefits. "Guarantees have been a relief in times of price rise," said Uma, a shopkeeper at Hanchal in Bangarpet. Krishnappa, a farmer in Chintamani, appreciated his wife for utilising guarantees well. "We recently bought a refrigerator from the money she saved from Gruhalakshmi without raising a loan," he said.

A place for auspicious start, but uncared for by all

The Hindu Bureau
KOLAR

Tucked amid a rocky terrain, Kurudumale - famous for the mighty idol of Lord Ganapathi - is considered auspicious for any start of electoral battle. Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda started his campaign in 1994 before becoming the Chief Minister from here, while the Congress launched its "Praja Dhwani" campaign ahead of the 2023 elections that propelled it to power in Karnataka. The JD(S) also had launched its ambitious Pancharatna yatra from here in 2022. "Political parties have used it as launchpads and politicians make a beeline here for blessings of the deity, but the temple itself is not in a great shape. Politicians come here promising development, but forget about it later," rued Shivaji, a resident of Kurudumale.

Metro a misplaced mobility option to suburbs; try Regional Rapid Transit System, say experts

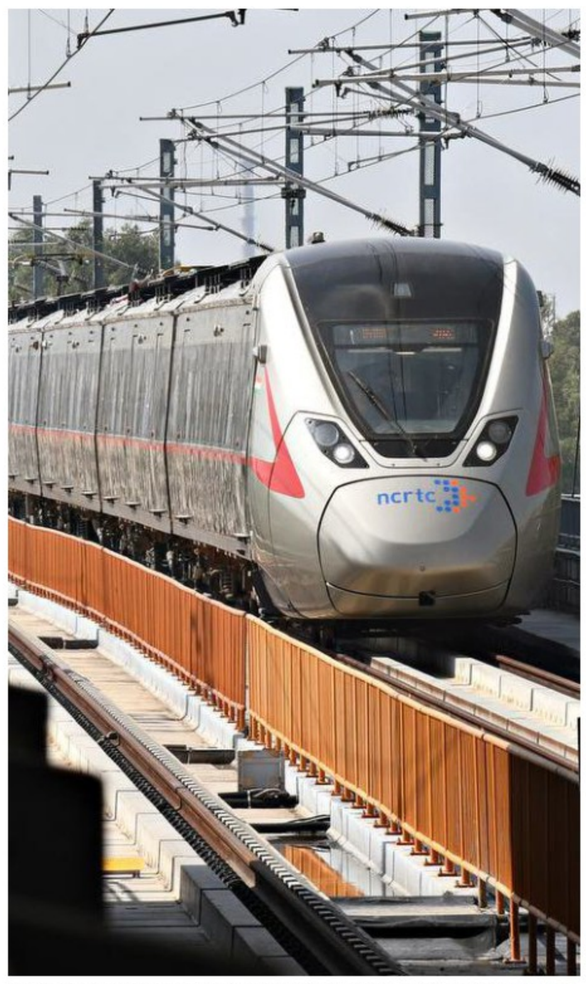
The RRTS system unlike the Metro, caters to commuters travelling relatively longer distances with higher speed. It also provides reliable, highfrequency, and point-to-point regional travel

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Should the low-capacity, low-speed, hugely expensive Metro rail system be extended to the far-flung suburbs and the adjacent districts of Bengaluru? Vast swathes of the city's core are yet to get a decent Metro network, but the urge to extend its reach comes at the cost of a very viable alternative: The much-delayed suburban rail system with a clearly established potential for high capacity, high speed and much lower construction cost.

Are the State and the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) serious about the extension? For the record, a feasibility study has been proposed by Namma Metro for a potential 129-km Phase 4. The plan is to extend the Purple and Green lines to Bidadi via Mysuru Road; Harohalli through Kanakapura Road, Attibele along Hosur Road and to Kunigal Cross, taking the Tumakuru Road route.

The 6.29-km elevated line, an extension of the Green line in the south of Bengaluru city on Kanakapura Road has five stations – Konanakunte Cross, Doddakallasandra, Vajrahalli, Thalaghattapura, and Silk Institute. FILE PHOTO



Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), in Ghaziabad. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Suburban rail or RRTS

By all accounts, taking the Metro to such long distances away from the city centre could be prohibitively expensive. "Instead, they should either go for the suburban rail or the high-speed Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) like the one you see between Delhi and Meerut. Metro as an option, I feel, is misplaced," notes Dr. Ashish Verma, Convenor of the Sustainable Transportation Lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The priority, he says, should be on decongesting the city's core part by completing all the pending three Metro phases, and the four-corridor suburban network planned and being implemented under K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited).

Designed for speeds of up to 160kmph, the RRTS is a dedicated, high-speed, high-capacity commuter service linking the regional nodes in the National Capital Region (NCR). Unlike the Metro, it caters to commuters travelling relatively longer distances with fewer stops and at higher speed. It also differs from conventional trains by providing reliable, high frequency, point-to-point regional travel along a dedicated pathway.

The Delhi-Meerut RRTS (RapidX) project's Priority Corridor commenced its commercial operations on October 21, 2023. The 17-km section links Sahibabad and Duhai via four elevated stations. RRTS is three times faster than the Metro, taking about one hour to cover 100 kms compared to the Metro's estimated three hours. Can this be an option to connect Bengaluru to its neighbouring towns?

To Tumakuru

Now, a closer look at the Metro option proposed to Tumakuru. As seasoned suburban rail analyst and campaigner Rajkumar Dugar points out, once the currently operational Green Line up to Nagasandra is extended till Tumakuru Railway Station, the entire corridor length would go up to 86 kms. "Metro is meant for short distances within the city, not for such long distances," says he.

The construction cost too would be enormous. "Presently, the elevated Metro costs about ₹300 Crore per kilometer. Underground Metro costs much more. Adding an elevated stretch of 52 km will cost about ₹15,600 Crore - or more, by the time it is commissioned," Rajkumar explains.

Longer commute time

Commute time would be another issue. It is estimated that a Metro ride from Majestic to Tumakuru will take about two hours. "The average speed of a Metro is 34kmph. To cover 70kms, it will take 124 minutes," he says. "However, due to various reasons, we can assume that the average speed of the Metro will be higher between Nagasandra and Tumakuru (e.g., with greater inter-station gaps). Even then it will take about 110 minutes. This does not compare well even with present trains."

The long-distance routes proposed under Metro Phase 4 run counter to the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) prepared by the BMRCL in 2020 as mandated for Phase 2A and 2B approvals.

The Plan prioritized further densification of Metro within the city, by adding three new lines along Old Airport Road, Old Madras Road and Sarjapur Road.

"Barring the Airport line with limited stops, North Bengaluru is left out from the Metro network. The Airport line will take another three years. Without a mass public transport option, all roads are choked. If they had prioritised Metro or suburban rail there, the Hebbal flyover expansion wouldn't have been required," contends urban rail analyst Sanjeev Dyamannavar.

He attributes the planning gaps and shift in priorities to the slow progress in activating the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA).

The 'most practical' option

RRTS should be an ideal option to link Bengaluru with its adjoining towns. But the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), being built by K-RIDE remains a low-hanging fruit, as Rajkumar indicates. The four-corridor project, covering a total distance of 148kms at a total cost of Rs 15,767 crore, is designed to take an estimated 10 lakh people off the roads.

Work is now underway on the Mallige corridor between Baiyappanahalli and Chikka Banavara and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. As he elaborates, "Chikka Banavara is 56 kms from Tumakuru Railway Station. Already the proposal to extend the Suburban Rail Corridor to Tumakuru is under consideration."

"Extending the BSRP Corridor is easier, more economical and can be done expeditiously. The Mallige corridor itself will cost about Rs. 115 crore per kilometer."

The message is clear: BSRP is the most practical option for all surrounding towns. "BSRP is economical, safe, comfortable, inclusive, fast and an eco-friendly option. The eight ends of the four Corridors can be relatively easily, quickly and economically extended to the nearby towns."

Rail and regional development

In terms of high-speed connectivity, a 2022 IISc study by Dr. Ashish and Saransh Sahu should be contextual here. "IISc was given a campus in Challakere in Chitradurga district. But growth and development has been slow due to connectivity issues. Scientists could not get there quickly. We did a study based on a hypothetical introduction of a high-speed train between Bengaluru and Challakere," Dr. Ashish recalls.

The study clearly indicated that with such a connectivity, IISc's productivity could be increased in terms of publications and research. Extending this finding to the entire region, the paper noted: "The short term and long-term impacts of high-speed accessibility and connectivity help policy-makers to think wisely about the planned introduction of HSR for inter-regional connectivity."

Such connectivity, he says, can induce growth for different sectors.

It could be industries or institutions. The study reiterates this: "Due to the absence of well-established facilities, organisations may not wish to establish in under-developed regions. For example, most of the SEZs of Karnataka are located in Bengaluru. This study shows that with high-speed connectivity, uniform development can be encouraged, and the government may not need to provide heavy subsidies for industries to grow in under-developed regions."

Aster CMI hospital unveils dedicated Parkinson Helpline Number

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This ensures that callers have immediate access to expert medical advice . GETTY IMAGES

Aster CMI Hospital has taken a significant initiative to support Parkinson's disease (PD) patients and their families, by launching a dedicated Parkinson's Helpline number. This dedicated helpline represents a major milestone in offering uninterrupted support and guidance to those living with this progressive neurological condition.

According to the release, the Parkinson's Helpline will be directly connected to a team of qualified neurologists. This ensures that callers have immediate access to expert medical advice and support, round the clock, every day of the week without any delays.24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Dr. Ravi Gopal Varma, Director, Aster Global Institute of Neurosciences & Lead Consultant - Neurosurgery, Aster Hospitals, said, "Parkinson's poses significant challenges with movement, speech, swallowing, difficulty with breathing and balance. This can increase the risk of falls, which might warrant an emergency response. Whether it's a question about medication, symptom management, or simply needing emotional support, a qualified neurologist will be readily available to assist them."

SGS Lakshmanan, COO - Aster CMI Hospital, said, "We understand the challenges faced by Parkinson's patients and their families, this 24/7 helpline is a crucial step in empowering them with the information and support they need to manage the disease effectively." The Parkinson's Helpline is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Patients and families can reach out for assistance by calling 8310107400.

Honeywell India partners with IISc to boost innovation by funding deep science start-ups

With an intensive focus on agri-tech, clean-tech, health-tech and green-tech, Honeywell has extended funding worth ₹2.4 crore in FY23-24 to eight start-ups and five EIR programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Honeywell has extended research and financial support to 37 Indian start-ups, extending capital worth ₹9 crore over the last four years. GETTY IMAGES

Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF), the philanthropic arm of Honeywell (NASDAQ: HON), in partnership with the Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), renowned for its cutting-edge deep sciences research, has extended research and financial support to 37 Indian start-ups, extending capital worth ₹9 crores over the last four years.

Seed funding

With an intensive focus on agri-tech, clean-tech, health-tech and green-tech, Honeywell has extended funding worth ₹2.4 crore in FY23-24 to eight start-ups and five Entrepreneurship-in-Residence programs (EIRs), and further plans to on-board 10 new start-ups in the current fiscal.

According to the release, through this collaboration, Honeywell provides seed funding and essential research support to start-ups in the realm of deep science focusing on addressing environmental, agricultural and health challenges.

Over the years, the synergy between Honeywell and IISc has been highly sought after, it has helped to extend access to state-of-the-art facilities, connect with industry stakeholders & government bodies, global network of High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs), Angels, Venture Capitalists (VCs) as well as Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.

Fertile ecosystem

In FY23-24, Honeywell and IISc's collaborative benefits were extended to health/med-tech companies like Papyrus Diagnostics Private Limited, Akumen Artificial Intelligence, Hoyasan Labs Pvt Ltd, Cellsion Technologies Pvt Ltd and Easescan MedTech Private Limited; and to agri-tech companies like Kaiza Tech and Green Collar Agritech; as well clean-tech start-up Mushloop Pvt Ltd.

Ashish Modi, president, of Honeywell India, said, "Our core focus is not just to extend financial support but also to encourage deep science/tech research which fuels the innovative prowess of these businesses. Over the past 4 years, we have worked with over 40 start-ups and will be on-boarding another 10 in the upcoming financial year. Together, with IISc, we are cultivating a fertile ecosystem for these companies, making a tangible impact on society."

An exemplary start-up supported by Honeywell and IISc is 'AI Highway,' offering cost-effective cardiac disease screening systems leveraging advanced signal processing and AI capabilities that can screen, detect and predict cardio-respiratory disorders.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1974

Gulbarga By-election: Peaceful Polling

Gulbarga, April 21: Polling in the by-election to the Lok Sabha from Gulbarga Constituency today passed off peacefully. First reports said 40 to 45 per cent of the over 5.89 lakh voters exercised their franchise. In some places, voting was around 60 per cent. In Gulbarga city, which observers say holds the key to success, polling began on a dull note with only 35 percent of the 90,000 electorate having cast their votes by noon.

The Divisional Commissioner, Mr. G.S. Srinivasan and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Mr. Harlankar went round Gulbarga City, Mr. Balagopalan, Chief Electoral Officer, visited Sedam, Chitapur, Jewargi and other areas. Mr. V. Balasubramanian, Deputy Commissioner, and Returning Officer told newsmen that polling was peaceful.

Surcharged Urged on Hotels' Sales to Boost Tourism

Bangalore, April 21: The imposition of a three per cent surcharge on the turnover of hotels and others in business connected with the development of tourism for providing more facilities for tourists was suggested by Mr. Azeez Sait, Chairman, Karnataka State Tourism Development corporation here today.

He commended for the consideration of the State Government the suggestion that a portion of sales tax collected by hotels be retained by them for being ploughed back into the industry, for providing better amenities.

A BG-BGE

CITYBEATS

Open mic

APRIL 27
If you have wanted to showcase your musical talents then this is for you. The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) presents 'Open Mic'. It is open to all, inclusive of those who are neuro-diverse, on autism spectrum, and have specific sensory needs.
Registrations close on by April 25. Call 9591332701.

Cambodian menu

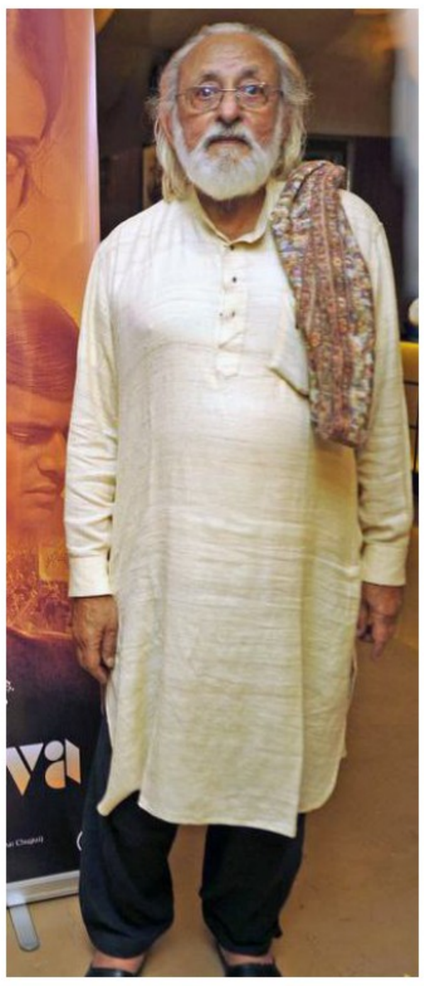
ONGOING
Kampot introduces a new Khmer menu to celebrate the Cambodian New Year and their one-year anniversary. The menu is inspired from the roots of Khmer cuisine and includes stews, tangy pink fire salad, samlor korkor, chha trob and more.
On till April 30. Call 080738 51623

Reader's corner

ONGOING
The second edition of the Lulu Readers Fest is on and concludes on April 27. The festival is aimed at celebrating Indian authors and re-familiarising people with the art of reading. In association with their book partner, Crossword, there will also be books of different genres for sale along with contests, storytelling and more.
On at the North Atrium, Lulu Mall, Rajajinagar.

A life lived in reel and real

Veteran film director, MS Sathyu talks about his passion for films, theatre and what it means to be conferred with the lifetime achievement award at BIFFes



The works of a great mind (clockwise from above) MS Sathyu with the poster of *Garam Hava*, Balraj Sahni in a still from the film, poster of the Kannada film *Bara*, the veteran director receiving the BIFFes Lifetime Achievment Award. SUDHAKARA JAIN, BHAGYA PRAKASH K, V SREENIVASA MURTHY, AFP

Shilpa Anandraj

If you belong to the '70s generation or followed Kannada theatre in the '80s, then MS Sathyu would need no introduction. If one hand he was winning accolades for his films such as *Garam Hava* (1974) on the other, he was wowing the theatre audience designing sets for most of the theatre groups. His sets for *Nagamandala* is considered one of his best. Name an award and Sathyu has won it. From *Garam Hava* being nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, to *Bara* (1982) winning the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Kannada. Sathyu won the Filmfare Best Art Direction Award for for Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat (1964)*, and was conferred with the Padma Shri. The latest accolade for Sathyu is the BIFFES Lifetime Achievement Award 2024. A living legend, Sathyu straddled the worlds of theatre and cinema. A creative factory, Sathyu is considered an institution for students of film and theatre.

The 93-year-old talks about his passion for theatre, cinema and set design, and *Garam Hava*, which celebrates it 50th anniversary this year.

Edited excerpts

You worked as an animator, art director and director. Are these disciplines independent of each other or in some way connected?
They are interconnected. Doing all these was a question of getting an opportunity to do something when I was very young. I went to Bombay at the age of 22, hence, whatever opportunity came my way, I accepted it. There was no choice. I was good at drawing and painting, so it was easy for me to learn animation. We had a small studio where we created animation for advertisements for soaps and things like that. That led to something further.

Even today, the emotions related to the Partition are raw. What were your feelings when you made *Garam Hava*?
I don't know, because I was not personally involved nor had I experienced the horrors of Partition. I did hear stories from friends who had experienced it, suffered loss and migrated. They spoke of division of the country and destruction. It was these stories that I wanted to show on-screen. Then it is a question of how sincere and honest you are when you are depicting true life stories in cinema so it is not diluted. As a director, the Kannada film *Bara* is closer to my heart. Yet, people remember only *Garam Hava*, which at times saddens me. *Bara* was a difficult film, which was possible only by passion.

When you make a film with political undertones, how easy or difficult is it to ensure your political ideas do not seep into the work?
The leanings and the struggle is always there. I am a Marxist and even today, whatever I do, in theatre or cinema, it reflects in some way or the other in my work. I may not be a member of any political party, but my leanings are expressed in my work.

As a director, what do you see has changed in cinema today and what are lacunae?
Cinema has become much more open today. The whole format of a film has changed because of streaming, which has also done a lot of damage to the human psyche. Digital platforms are not good for cinema, but that is the trend today. Most cinema follow a common template. There is a dramatic moment and suddenly there is rain. Why should it rain when it is not the season for rain nor does the script demand it? The pattern has been set by the makers of these films. I find it artificial and in a way it has narrowed the scope of expression.

Art is something that should elevate the human mind. Now the human mind is destroyed, diminished by OTT. It is alright to watch a football or a cricket match on a digital platform, not cinema.

You made nine Hindi films including the iconic *Haqeeqat*. Yet we did not see you make more films in Mumbai...
It is a question of getting your finances. When you start talks, political ideas can come in the way. It is not always easy.

I've worked with many stars and introduced many of them. But there is a limit as to how many even know that I introduced Pankaj Kapur, Sharon Prabhakar and Anil Kapoor to Hindi cinema. Anil's first Hindi film was with me (*Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaya*).

Your involvement with Indian People's Theatre Association and designing stage sets till date, shows your passion for this medium. Do you see theatre as a dying art?
Theatre is dying only for some, but is alive as there is a one-to-one relation between the audience and actor which cannot be achieved in cinema. In cinema, you depend on some machine to portray your emotions and connect with the audience. In theatre, it's a direct connection with a live audience that instantly reacts to your work on stage.

What are your thoughts on the BIFFes lifetime achievement award?
It's a gift. A gift can be small or generous, yet it is a gift. I don't feel excited about it now. Perhaps, I would have been excited if I was younger, like when I won the Filmfare Award for *Haqeeqat* as the art director. It was a set that was created in Ladakh. That experience is more exciting than a lifetime achievement award.

How did you approach the concept of Haqeeqat as art director?
Every story needs a certain ambience and look. If you are dealing with the Indian Army, then you have to bring in a certain authenticity to the whole thing. Actors have to become soldiers.

They should know how to handle weapons, move through the sand. Ladakh is today exploited for every ad and film. But when *Haqeeqat* was made in 1963, we had nothing and had to make ourselves a part of the Indian Army. We lived with them and ate like them.

There would be sand in the food and we had no reason to complain. When a soldier, who is protecting your country can eat that, you have no right to grumble.

It is your duty to eat the same food and honour him by doing what he does.

A start for art

Ruth Dhanaraj

Almost every surface and space at VR Bengaluru seems to be awash with creativity. With installations on the floors and suspended over the atrium, as well as art on the walls, there is no mistaking the Whitefield Art Collective is back in the city.

Now in its seventh edition, the Whitefield Art Collective is part of the Public Arts Festivals started more than a decade ago by the not-for-profit Yuj Arts Foundation. According to Sumi Gupta, curator of the Public Arts Festivals, the focus of this event is student and emerging art.

Since 2013 the Public Art Festivals in collaboration with Virtuous Retail South Asia have hosted 22 art festivals across India, such as the Dumas Art Project in Surat, the Punjab Art Initiative in Punjab and Amritsar, the Madras Art Guild in Chennai, and the Nagpur Kala Sangh in Nagpur.

"We collaborate with institutions because we feel students need a platform to showcase their work and it is difficult for them to engage with galleries or larger art festivals as they are more exclusive," says Sumi.

She adds that students from Chitrakala Patrishath , The Bangalore Institute of Design and Bangalore University are a part of the festival this year which is themed, Transcending Boundaries .

No boundary for art Some of the works on display at the show. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We encourage students to make installations or artworks based on a theme around which conversations can be had and shine a spotlight on issues that need to be addressed," she says, adding that she thought the theme was apt since the concept of globally connections was a part of reality today.

With over 100 works of art on display, to say nothing of the workshops, sessions and stalls on the premises, every edition of the festival takes at least six months to execute.

"Over the years we have incorporated classical dance and music, cinema and photography. Next year, we hope to bring in theatre and folk art into the mix," says Sumi.

In order to give students exposure to the world of art, retrospectives on artists Achuthan Kadallur, P Gopinath and Yusuf Arakkal are also a part of this edition.

"We collaborated with PVR to screen a few art movies, and there is a workshop on the art of brewing coffee. Apart from this, the month-long festival will have an artisanal bazaar with embroidery, pottery and ceramic works among others as well as a young artist program.

We have multi-generational families and corporate workers visiting, so there is definitely something for everyone."

"Whether one is a photographer, sculptor or painter, it is important to showcase their works so people would be able to see them. The more viewers they have and the more reactions they get, the more fulfilling it is for them. Imagine a student seeing people taking selfies with their work – it would be such as inspiration for them."

The Whitefield Art Collective has started a mentorship programme to help students, "move along the spectrum of their own self development," says Sumi. Members of the panel include president of the Kochi Biennale Foundation Bose Krishnamachari, director of the India Art Fair Jaya Asokan and renown photographer Amit Pasricha, as well as British mixed media artist Piers Bourke.

The festival also focusses on crafting amazing things using completely natural, sustainable and renewable materials.

The Whitefield Art Collective will go on till May 5, 2024 at VR Bengaluru. Entry free. For updates on sessions and workshops follow whitefieldartcollective on Instagram

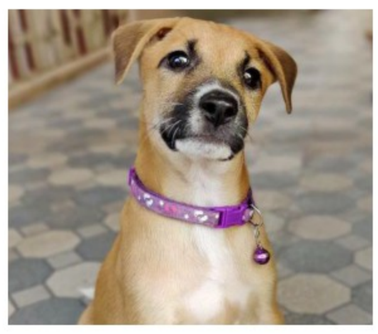
PETPALS

Dharwad Peda

The brown pup is a 40-day old female. She was found abandoned without food, her siblings missing. She is on a diet of curd and cerelac. Is calm and playful.

Peda is toilet trained and loves to play, jump around and is a pro at rabbit hops. And can she bark, when she needs the attention!

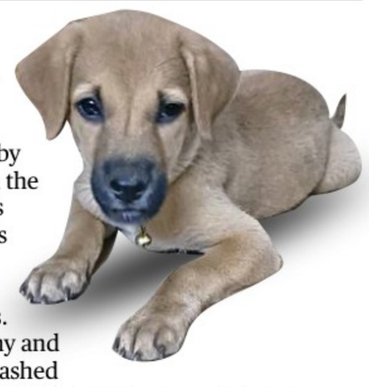
A home with kids is apt for this little pet.



Nimbe

This two-month old female pup has a light-brown coat. She was found abandoned under a shed, when rescuer went feeding the dogs. Her mother was not found. She has had two vaccinations, is healthy and is is on a vegetarian diet. She favourite food is Ceralac. She has a good temperament and is undergoing her potty training. She loves to play and sleep and loves to hide. She barks at alarm sounds.

Kadhali



Two-month old Kadhali was found abandoned by someone on the street. She is brown and is up to date with her vaccinations. She is healthy and binges on mashed vegetables, ragi, dal, curd rice with dog treats topping her list.

Is good tempered and toilet trained. She barks at other dogs, sudden movements or noises. A home with lots of space and playmates is what she would love.

Mysore Pak

Forty-day-old female loves to shake hands. Rescued from a drain, she lives on rice, curd and cerelac.

She is friendly, gets excited to meet new puppies and is playfully running all the time.
A home with people will suit her as she loves meeting new people too.
For adoption and more information, visit letslivetogether.org or contact 9513716699/9986413916.

Mangalore Bun

One-month-old Mangalore Bun is a brown female, found in a drain. She is healthy, de-wormed and eats rice, ragi, Cerelac, vegetables and curds.

Mild and friendly, she loves children, is toilet trained and will adapt to any home.

Amid avian flu fears, more birds culled in Alappuzha district

Members of rapid response teams engaged in culling ducks at Cheruthana in Alappuzha on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

Over 17,480 birds, mostly ducks, within a one-km radius of bird flu hotspots, were culled earlier

Amid fears of avian flu spreading, mass bird deaths have been reported from Muttar and Ambalappuzha North in Alappuzha district.

District Animal Husbandry Officer Sajeev Kumar K.R. said a farmer raising 2,300 ducks at Muttar lost 164 in recent days. At Ambalappuzha North, 90 chickens of the total 650 in a poultry farm had perished during the period.

"Following bird deaths, we collected samples from two places and sent them to the Avian Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Thiruvalla for testing. The tests carried out at the laboratory suspect bird flu. We have decided to send the samples to the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal for final confirmation. It will be dispatched to Bhopal on Monday and the results are expected in a couple of days," Dr. Kumar said. An avian flu outbreak can only be declared after confirmation from the NIHSAD. He said Muttar and Ambalappuzha North had been under surveillance following the bird flu outbreaks at Edathua and Cheruthana last week.

After the presence of the H5N1 subtype of the Influenza A virus was confirmed in ducks of three farmers – one at Edathua grama panchayat (Ward 1) and two at Cheruthana panchayat (Ward 3) – rapid response teams of the Animal Husbandry Department culled 17,480 birds, mostly ducks, within a one-km radius of bird flu hotspots on April 19.

The avian influenza virus can be transmitted to humans. The Health department has tightened preventive steps and urged people to maintain caution. Surveillance has been strengthened within a 10-km radius of the hotspots.

PMO trying to stop investments in all southern States: Revanth

Bharatiya Janata Party's DNA is anti-South Indian, says the Telangana Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A. Revanth Reddy

All political parties have their own unique DNA and the BJP's is in essence "anti-South Indian", said Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday, alleging that there were even attempts to scuttle investments in states down South by direct intervention of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Mr. Reddy, who is in Karnataka to campaign for Congress, told mediapersons here, "If any multi-national company tries to invest in any South Indian State, there is a direct call from the PMO to threaten and take the investment away to Gujarat. It is the spillover that we are expected to take."

He argued that "discrimination" against the South was also evident in the manner in which all key portfolios as well as Constitutional posts are denied to South Indians. "In the BJP mindset, there is no need to give much importance to South Indian leadership. They think nominal representation will do," he said.

"How many Ministers of Cabinet rank are from South India in this government?... President and Vice-President, Speaker or even their party presidents are all from north India," Mr. Reddy pointed out, arguing that there has always been a better balance whenever Congress is in power. "Discrimination is going on and nobody from the party dares speak up. Anyone growing a little strong is sent home."

'Won't cross 220'

Predicting that the BJP would not cross 220 seats across India, Mr. Reddy said that it wold get "a maximum of 20 seats" out of 131 from South India. "Even if you liberally presume they get 13-14 seats from Karnataka and three to four from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh may be one, there is nothing else coming from the entire South," he said, listing out states the BJP has already maxed out in 2019. BJP's own MPs are undercutting each other as they fight Lok Sabha polls now.

"Every medicine has an expirty date irrespective of how good it is... The warranty of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee is over... Watch all his election speeches of 2014, 2019 and all assembly polls in between and what he is speaking now. Tell me if there is any difference between them," he said.

"If any person believes he is bigger than the sytem, nature will teach a lesson. That is happening here too," said the Telangana Chief Minister. This election, he said, is all about "whether people want Mr. Modi on the chair or off the chair." Speaking on the push towards "one nation, one election", Mr. Reddy said the agenda was really "one nation, one party and one person" and the rest was a charade.

KCR to intensify campaign with roadshows

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao greeting his supporters during an election rally. FILE PHOTO

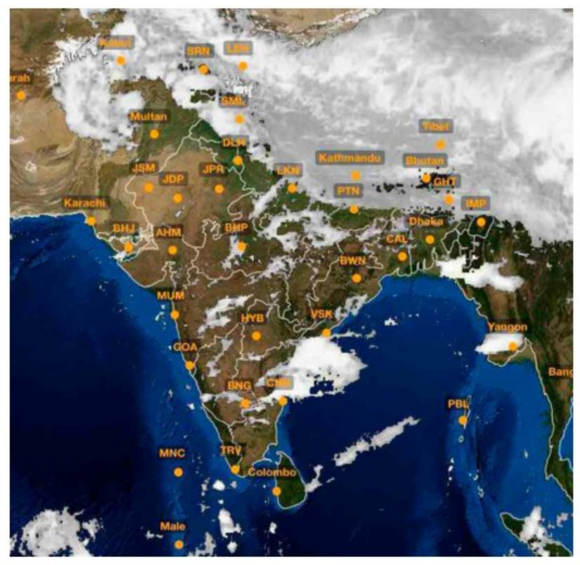
Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrashekhar Rao has decided to intensify his campaign for the Lok Sabha election by planning 22 roadshows, including a few public meetings, starting from Miryalguda to Siddipet. The campaign is scheduled to begin on April 24 and end on May 10.

The former Chief Minister is planning to cover all parliamentary constituencies in his roadshows except those in and around Hyderabad, the party said, adding that roadshows were being preferred instead of public meetings for better outreach.

On the first day, Mr. Rao is likely to hold a roadshow at Miryalguda and make a night halt at Suryapet, followed by a roadshow in Bhongir on April 25, Mahabubnagar on April 26, Nagarkurnool on April 27, Warangal on April 28, Khammam on April 29, and Tallada and Kothagudem on April 30. On May 1, he will hold a roadshow in Mahabubabad, Jammikunta on May 2, Ramagundam on May 3, Mancherial on May 4, Jagtial on May 5, Nizamabad on May 6, Kamareddy and Medak on May 7, Narsapur and Patancheru on May 8, Karimnagar on May 9 and Sircilla and Siddipet on May 10.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya. Severe heatwave conditions in isolated places very likely to prevail over Gangetic West Bengal; heatwave conditions in isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.0	28.0	Kozhikode	—	37.0	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	38.0	27.0	Kurnool	—	38.0	28.0
Aizawl	—	26.0	16.0	Lucknow	—	39.0	23.0
Allahabad	—	41.0	28.0	Madurai	—	40.0	28.0
Bengaluru	—	36.0	23.0	Mangaluru	0.3	33.0	25.0
Bhopal	—	39.0	24.0	Mumbai	—	35.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	41.0	28.0	Mysuru	—	35.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	36.0	21.0	New Delhi	—	37.0	22.0
Chennai	—	35.0	29.0	Patna	—	41.0	28.0
Coimbatore	—	39.0	26.0	Port Blair	—	34.0	26.0
Dehradun	—	35.0	20.0	Puducherry	—	36.0	29.0
Gangtok	—	23.0	15.0	Pune	—	41.0	25.0
Goa	—	34.0	25.0	Raipur	—	42.0	26.0
Guwahati	—	32.0	22.0	Ranchi	—	39.0	26.0
Hubballi	—	39.0	24.0	Shillong	—	27.0	17.0
Hyderabad	0.3	38.0	26.0	Shimla	—	27.0	15.0
Imphal	—	32.0	18.0	Srinagar	—	16.0	6.0
Jaipur	—	37.0	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	28.0
Kochi	—	33.0	28.0	Tiruchi	—	41.0	28.0
Kohima	—	26.0	16.0	Vijayawada	—	40.0	28.0
Kolkata	—	40.0	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	17	34	125	100	
Bengaluru	10	—	18	141	116	
Chennai	11	13	103	25	25	
Delhi	22	37	29	243	204	
Hyderabad	8	7	22	57	88	
Kolkata	6	42	29	120	120	
Lucknow	8	49	25	252	168	
Mumbai	10	—	26	99	124	
Pune	71	20	—	53	74	
Visakhapatnam	13	52	31	48	93	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 257 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Surat, Odisha recorded a healthy AQI score of 37

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE
PROBATE C.P. NO. 2 OF 2023
In The Matter Of The Last Will & Testament of Late Smt. Pramila A. Rao

BETWEEN : B.A GAUTAM Son of Late B.A. Ananda Rao, Aged about 61 years Residing at 168/D/E, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, J.P Nagar 3rd Phase, Bangalore 560078 ...PETITIONER
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT

Whereas B.A. Gautam, the Petitioner above named has made an application u/s 222, 276 & Chapter IV Of The Indian Succession Act, 1925 Read With Rule 5 Of The Rules Governing Probate And Administration Matters, 1964 for grant of Probate for the Last Will and Testament dated 06.08.2016 executed by deceased Late Smt. Pramila A. Rao.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered by anyone and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **29.05.2024,** and all persons claiming to have interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, 5th day of April, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioners
M/s CrestLaw Partners, No. 33, 1 Cross, Xavier's Layout, Victoria Road, Bangalore-560047

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE
PROBATE C.P. NO. 1 OF 2023
In The Matter Of The Last Will & Testament of Late Sri. B.A. Ananda Rao

BETWEEN : B.A GAUTAM Son of Late B.A. Ananda Rao, Aged about 61 years Residing at 168/D/E, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, J.P Nagar 3rd Phase, Bangalore 560078 ...PETITIONER
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT

Whereas B.A. Gautam, the Petitioner above named has made an application u/s 232 (a), 276 & chapter IV of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 read with rule 5 of the Rules Governing Probate And Administration Matters, 1964 for grant of Letters of Administration for the Last Will and Testament dated 31.12.1997 executed by deceased Late Sri B.A. Ananda Rao.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered by anyone and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **29.05.2024**, and all persons claiming to have interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, 5th day of April, 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioners
M/s CrestLaw Partners, No. 33, 1 Cross, Xavier's Layout, Victoria Road, Bangalore-560047

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

20 08 1930 — 22 04 2023

Mrs. DHARMAMBAL
Fondly remembered by
M.S.Natesan, M.S.Ganesan, M.S.Swaminathan, M.S.Vijayalakshmi & Grand Children.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO

Abhinav Jain AIR 35

With the continuous support and guidance of Vaid Sir and Team, I am able to continuously score good marks in Anthropology i.e. 294(2021) & 287(2023). It plays an important role in my selection both the times.

Abhinav Jain, AIR 35, IAS`24

Batch Starts: Apr 27

For Details visit www.vaidsics.com
Or Youtube.com/@VaidsICSDelhi | Ph: 9999946748

HEARTIEST Congratulations To All Successful Candidates In CSE 2022

VISIONIAS INSPIRING INNOVATION

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632 004, TN.

SITUATIONS VACANT:

Post 1: OFFICER (Internal Audit) Below 35 yrs.
Qualification: ACA/ACMA.

Post 2: MANAGER (Finance & Accounts) *Below 45 years.*

QUALIFICATION: ACA / ACMA with over 12 years of post-qualification in Finance & Accounts of a large organization and at least 5 years at senior level.

Post 3: Sr. MANAGER (Finance & Accounts *Below 55 years.*

QUALIFICATION: ACA/ACMA with over 15 yrs of post-qualification in Finance & Accounts of a large organization and at least 5 years at senior level.

Salary for post 1, 2 & 3 : As per Institutional norms. Suitable experience may be considered for additional weightage of Salary

Applications should be made online.
https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmapp/listapplication.aspx
Only regular mode will be accepted. Private or correspondence will not be accepted.
No phone calls / direct appointments will be entertained.

Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by 06.05.2024.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-74)
O.S. No. 25790/2023

BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Rep. by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh, D/o. Anil Kumar Singh, Aged about 24 years. ...PLAINTIFF

AND :
MR. SUDHIL N. S.
S/o. Surendran
Aged about 34 years
No. 45, 6th Cross Road, Maruthi Nagar, Stage 1 BTM Layout, Bangalore- 560 029.
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 6,35,746.07/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Six and Paise Zero Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a. in **O.S. NO. 25790/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 74,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **13th** day of **June, 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **08th** day of **April, 2024.**

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDI, CITY CIVL, JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S, NO. 25808/2023

BETWEEN:
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh, Aged 24 years
Fxcol@yahoo.co.in
Phone No. 8041216669
...Plaintiff

AND :
Mr. JUNAID PASHA
S/o. Jamsheed Pasha,
Aged about 27 years, No. 111.9th" Cross, Manorayan Palya, Sultanpalya, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560 015
...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,96,551.00/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty One Only)** apart from future interest of **18% p.a., in O.S. No. 25808/2023** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 74, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall. Bengaluru.

You are hereby sunmmoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **20th** day of **June 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **18th** day of **April, 2024.**

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall BENGALURU- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT VISAKHAPATNAM
I.A.No.314/2021 in O.S.No.162/2012

Between :
Anthony Mills(died) and others ----Petitioners
And
Neville Eric Mills and others ----Respondents
To
Michelle Wilson, w/o. Alian, aged about; 48 years, residing at Benguluru city of Karnataka state. (R3)

You are here by required to appear before the above hon'ble court on **08-05-2024** at **10.30 a.m.** either in person or by a pleader to put in your claim in the above I.A., otherwise the petition will be determined in your absence.

(by order of the court)
V.Madhu
Counsel for petitioners
Visakhapatnam,
Date: 20-04-2024.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT VISAKHAPATNAM
I.A.No.315/2021 in O.S.No.162/2012

Between :
Anthony Mills(died) and others ------Petitioners
And
Neville Eric Mills and others -----Respondents
To
Michelle Wilson, w/o. Alian, aged about; 48 years, residing at Benguluru city of Karnataka State. (R3)

You are here by required to appear before the above hon'ble court on **08-05-2024** at **10.30 a.m.** either in person or by a pleader to put in your claim in the above I.A., otherwise the petition will be determined in your absence.

(by order of the court)
V.Madhu
Counsel for petitioners
Visakhapatnam,
Date: 20-04-2024.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE :: M-M-DISTRICT, AT: MEDCHAL
S.OP NO: 10 OF 2021

Between:
Gaddam Nagesh Reddy and others ...Petitioners
A N D
The Managing Director, Chambal fertilizers and Chemicals ltd and 23 others ...Respondents

To,
The Managing Director,
X changing Solutions Ltd, Kalyani Tech Park, Sy.no.1,6 & 24, Kundan Halli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560 066
...Respondent No:12

The All Concerned are hereby informed that the above Petitioner had filed the above Succession Petition bearing S.O.P.No: 10 of 2021 before Hon'ble Addl Senior Civil Judge:: Medchal-Malkajigiri District at::Medchal, and the matter is posted on **29-04-2024** for your appearance, and hence, You are hereby required to appear before Hon'ble Addl Senior civil judge, Medchal at Medchal, Medchal-Malkajigiri Dist. **on 29-04-2024 at 10:30 A.M.** in person or through an Advocate on your behalf, else, failing which, the matter will be decided in your absence.

// BY ORDER OF THE COURT //
Sd/- SRINIVAS UPPERPALLI
ADVOCATE
6-14/1, Bajrang hills, Vennelagadda, Quthbullapur Mandal, R.R.District
Cell : 9848133311

IN THE COURT OF LXXIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 25073/2023

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Aged about 24 years
D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
V/S
MR. NARASIMHA MURTHY

Summons to Defendant

1. MR. NARASIMHA MURTHY,
S/o. Halappa,
Aged about 60 years,
13, 4th Cross, Brundavana Nagar, Siva Temple, Kariobanahalli, Nagasandra Bangalore- 560073.

Whereas, the above named has Plaintiff filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.5,06,164.16/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four paisa Sixteen Only)** apart from future interest of 9.50% p.a., in O.S. No.25073/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 74, Before LXXIII Addl., City Civil sessions judge, MayoHall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 01st day of June 2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 01st day of April, 2024

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru-560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No.9, Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL, CITY CIVIL, & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. NO. 25408/2023

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh. D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh Aged 24 years
Fxcol@yahoo.co.in
Phone No. 8041216669
...Plaintiff

V/S
Ms. DAVAPRIYA BARATHAN
...Defendants

Summons to Defendant

1. Ms. Davapriya Barathan
D/o. Mr. Barathan Kumarappa
Aged 38 years, 304, 3rd Floor, Prestige Allazar 5 Infantry Road, Cross Tasker, Town Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore Bangalore- 560 001.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 7,61,168.01/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Eight paisa One Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25408/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 74**, Before 73rd Addl City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby sunmmoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **12th day of June 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your adsence Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **18th** day of **April, 2024**

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Bengaluru- 560 005

FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

READ FRONTLINE LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984

EVERY FORTNIGHT.

TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

Sobering assessment

The richer nations must show more support for the poorest countries

The global economy has avoided the spectre of a debilitating recession, with the IMF last week raising its forecast for worldwide aggregate growth in 2024 to 3.2%, from the 2.9% it had projected in October. The IMF has underlined the fact that the global economy has, with surprising resilience, ridden out several adverse shocks as well as 'significant central bank interest rate increases aimed at restoring price stability' and sustained the growth momentum, largely on the back of advanced economies led by the U.S. undergirding demand. However, the Fund has also pointed to a growing gulf between the economic north and south by observing: "A troubling development is the widening divergence between many low-income developing countries and the rest of the world. For these economies, growth is revised downward, whereas inflation is revised up." These poorest countries, in Africa and including some Latin American, Pacific island and Asian nations, had also suffered the most scarring from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of estimated drop in output relative to pre-pandemic projections, and were struggling to recover. To compound their woes, these economies were now saddled with a mounting debt service burden that was severely impairing their ability to spend on vitally needed public goods including better education, health care and social nets to improve food security.

The IMF's twin development lender, the World Bank, has, in a separate report, pointed out that for the first time in this century, half of the world's 75 poorest countries were experiencing a widening income gap with the wealthiest economies, marking a "historic reversal" of development. As the World Bank Group's Chief Economist Indermit Gill observed in a blog post on the lender's site, "[the 75 poorest countries] are home to a quarter of humanity – 1.9 billion people... and are home to 90% of people facing hunger or malnutrition". More distressingly, while these countries were midway through what he termed, potentially 'a lost decade', Mr. Gill averred that the rest of the world was "largely averting its gaze" even as the governments in at least half these nations were mostly paralysed by debt distress. Citing the examples of South Korea, China and India as countries that had transitioned from being borrowers of low-interest loans from the World Bank's International Development Association into economic powerhouses that were today IDA donors, the Bank's chief economist stressed it was imperative that the world's richer countries financially support the poorest nations. Given that the world needs to tap every reserve of economic potential to achieve universal peace and prosperity, it can ill afford to turn its back on a quarter of its people.

Limited company

The Left and the Congress are doing each other no favours in Kerala

Political alliances are known to change over time: old ties break and new ones are made. But the Congress and the CPI(M) also find that their friendship changes across space. They have built up extraordinary bonhomie in States such as West Bengal, Tripura, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as partners in the INDIA grouping while putting on public display their manic hostility in Kerala. Top leaders of the CPI(M) West Bengal unit had taken part in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Both parties have a seat-sharing arrangement in the Lok Sabha elections in States where they are on a sticky wicket. But they are at daggers drawn in Kerala, where the electoral fight is primarily between the United and Left fronts they lead. The INDIA bloc's objective is to keep the BJP out, which is still a minion in Kerala. That, however, fails to explain the vitriol and venom spewed by Congress and CPI(M) leaders at each other, rocking their alliance elsewhere in India. The CPI(M)'s Kerala unit, which retains its organisational and political strength, has always had reservations about any understanding with the Congress anywhere in India. The party chose not to nominate a representative to INDIA's coordination committee in September last year.

In Kerala, the Congress used the Enforcement Directorate's inquiry against the CPI(M) in a cooperative bank case, and against the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's kin, to consistently attack the party and Mr. Vijayan. The CPI(M), on its part, flayed the Congress for not being able to stop the defection of its leaders to the BJP. That Mr. Gandhi chose to contest again from Wayanad, against the CPI's Annie Raja, proved thorny, with the CPI(M) maintaining that as a national leader, he should ideally have taken on the BJP and not the Left front. Things came to a head when Mr. Gandhi launched a tirade against Mr. Vijayan for evading the ED's questioning and arrest by accusing him of having a secret pact with the BJP. The gratuitous remark opened a Pandora's box. While Mr. Vijayan reminded Mr. Gandhi of his (Mr. Vijayan's) arrest during the Emergency, some Left leaders recalled Mr. Vijayan's expression of solidarity when Mr. Gandhi was grilled by the ED. With neither side showing the readiness to bury the hatchet, the exchange has exposed the widening cracks in the INDIA bloc. The situation brings up the question of whether one is to focus their attention on the biggest enemy or on the worst enemy. The BJP sees as its ideological enemy both the Congress and the Left, but it can afford to watch silently as the two tear each other apart in Kerala.

Preparing India for water stress, climate resilience

Arunabha Ghosh

is the CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Commissioner, Global Commission on the Economics of Water

Nitin Bassi

is the Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

As the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts a hotter summer and longer heat waves from April to June, India must also prepare for water stress. The challenge is that we are programmed to consider acute stresses (heat, water, or extreme weather) as temporary, to be handled often as disaster relief. We must move from panic reactions when disaster strikes (like the water crisis in Bengaluru), to understand and respond to the chronic nature of risks we face. Moreover, climate action cannot be left to a few sectors or businesses. Nor can environmental sustainability be reduced to sapling plantation drives over a few days.

This Earth Day (April 22) should be a wake-up call. The climate is the economy now, and the economic production frontier will expand or shrink depending on how we understand the intersections between land, food, energy and water.

India houses 18% of the world's population on 2.4% of the earth's surface area and has just 4% of global freshwater resources. Nearly half its rivers are polluted, and 150 of its primary reservoirs are currently at just 38% of their total live storage capacity. Further, it is the largest user of groundwater in the world. And three-quarters of India's districts are hotspots for extreme climate events.

Against this backdrop, India has invested heavily in disaster preparedness, but the nature of climatic shocks will continue to change. There will be sudden shocks (heavy rainfall, rapid declines in water availability) as well as slow onset but periodic stresses (reduced water retention in soils, changes in trend lines for rainfall). Seasonal disaster preparedness and responses are no longer sufficient to tackle climate risks.

Water flows through the economy

For long, we have not taken cognisance of the many ways by which water flows through our economy and, instead, addressed water (and other natural resources) in silos. Water connects our hydrological, food, and energy systems, impacting millions of people.

How does this connection work? Precipitation is the primary source of soil moisture and water stored in vegetation (green water) and the water available in rivers and aquifers (blue water). Both blue and green water impact the food we grow – irrigating crops, influencing harvests, and being critical to the economy. But this sector that employs the most is increasingly climate vulnerable. The India Employment Report 2024 shows that agriculture still employs around 45% of the population and absorbs most of the country's labour force. At the same time, a Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) study showed that monsoon rainfall is changing patterns in India, with 55% of '*tehsils*' or sub-districts seeing a significant increase of more than 10% in southwest monsoon rainfall in the last decade, compared to the previous three. But this increased rainfall is frequently coming from short-duration, heavy rain, affecting crop sowing, irrigation and harvesting. Making the agricultural sector more resilient to climatic and water stresses matters for jobs, growth and sustainability.

> The climate is the economy now, and understanding the crucial intersections between land, food, energy and water will influence how the economy functions

Water is also a key component of the world's clean energy transition. Green hydrogen, seen as a crucial pillar for decarbonising industry and long-distance transport sectors, is produced using water and electricity sourced from renewables. Pumped storage hydropower – which acts as a natural battery and is essential to balance the power grid load – is an important component of a clean but reliable power system.

Then there is the climate crisis and its impact on hydrometeorological disasters. According to the UN World Water Development Report 2020, almost 75% of natural disasters in the last two decades were related to water. According to CEEW analysis, between 1970 and 2019, the number of flood associated events (such as landslides, thunderstorms and cloud bursts) increased by up to 20 times in India. Freshwater, one of the nine planetary boundaries, has been transgressed (2023 study).

The ingredients of water security

What India does to ensure water for domestic supply, food security, and the clean energy transition will matter to its economy. But its experiences will hold lessons for other water-stressed developing countries and emerging economies. Attaining this water security will need a mix of the right policies, judicious use of water, including reuse of urban wastewater, and finance for adapting to a changing world.

First, effective water governance needs policies that recognise its interactions with food and energy systems. However, CEEW and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) analysis shows that although India has adopted several policies, most do not recognise this nexus while planning or at the implementation stage. For instance, while the scaling up of green hydrogen is desirable, the link with water availability is not always considered. Similarly, the impact of scaling up solar irrigation pumps on groundwater levels must be analysed to deploy the technology where there is an optimal mix of solar resource and higher groundwater levels. Policies should incorporate the food-land-water nexus through localised evidence and community engagement.

Second, India needs to focus on the judicious use of blue and green water through water accounting and efficient reuse. The National Water Mission targets increasing water use efficiency by 20% by 2025. Similarly, the Atal Mission on Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 calls for reducing non-revenue water, which is lost before it reaches the end user, to less than 20% in urban local bodies. However, these are not backed by any baseline set using water accounting principles that will help quantify the, say, "20 per cent" change in freshwater use. For instance, in the absence of water use data for the reference year, it is difficult to quantify the potential water saving in one sector, such as agriculture, that can then be diverted to other sectors, such as industries or domestic purposes, which will drive India's water demand. Water accounting is essential for promoting water use efficiency and creating incentives for investments in treated wastewater reuse.

Third, leverage financial tools to raise money for climate adaptation in the water sector. Following global trends, India's climate action has been largely focused on mitigation in the industrial, energy, and transport sectors. Financial commitments for climate change adaptation in the water and agriculture sectors are still relatively small. In 2019-20, for which aggregate estimates are available, the per capita annual spending on climate change mitigation was about ₹2,200, whereas for adaptation, it was only ₹260. More funding is needed for adaptation-specific interventions such as strengthening wastewater management, providing incentives to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices (micro irrigation and crop diversification), and scaling up desalination plants as an alternative water source for thermal plants and green hydrogen production. Market innovations such as India's Green Credit Programme have the potential to partially bridge the adaptation funding gap by encouraging investment in wastewater treatment, desalination plants, and agricultural extension services. Considering the investments in India under Corporate Social Responsibility (between 2014-15 and 2020-21), there is a potential to leverage about ₹12,000 crore worth of investments every year.

Expectations that systemic change will occur overnight are unrealistic. But it is possible to make a start by pursuing more coherence in water, energy and climate policies, creating data-driven baselines to increase water savings, and enabling new financial instruments and markets for adaptation investments. A water-secure economy is the first step towards a climate-resilient one.

The views expressed are personal

Empower the guardians of the earth, do not rob them

Ajay Saini

teaches at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Manish Chandi

is with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)-India

In the southern expanse of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, off the shores of Little Nicobar, lie seven tiny islands. Classified as "uninhabited" in the government's records, these islets are nonetheless integral to the indigenous communities of the region. Two, officially called Meroë and Menchal, are known as Piruii and Pingaeyak, respectively, to the Payuh, the indigenous southern Nicobarese peoples, who hold traditional rights over these and other islets.

For millennia, these historically isolated indigenes have relied on these islands as resource reservoirs for sustenance and protected them. Menchal is revered, used, and protected under the spiritual realm called Pingaeyak (a spirit that is believed to reside on the island), prohibiting the overexploitation of resources or any undue harm to its ecosystem. Similarly, Meroë is believed to be the abode of a legendary islander community. Here, too, spiritual belief systems influence how the islanders use and protect natural resources.

Meroë and Menchal are managed by community elders as guardians and specific individual caretakers. They ensure the protection of the island's resources and sustainability. In today's world, this phenomenon goes by the name of "conservation" and "sustainable use", among other terms and phrases.

Conservation colonialism

In May 2022, in complete disregard of the indigenous land ownership and management systems, the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) administration issued three public notices, announcing its intention to create three wildlife sanctuaries: a coral sanctuary at Meroë Island, a megapode sanctuary at Menchal Island, and a leatherback turtle sanctuary on Little Nicobar Island.

In mid-July, the A&N administration issued an order asserting that it did not receive any claims or objections from any individual regarding the land and marine areas within the three proposed sanctuaries; that no individual enjoys any rights within the boundaries of the proposed sanctuaries. And, that there will be "restriction on the people of neighbouring area to enter into these islands... in the national interest."

> A unilateral decision to establish three wildlife sanctuaries in the southern Nicobar will deprive the indigenous peoples of their ancestral territories and lifeways

Approximately 1,200 southern Nicobarese inhabit Patai Takaru (Great Nicobar Island), and Patai t-bhi (Little Nicobar Island), holding traditional rights over both inhabited and ostensibly "uninhabited" islands. Yet, the A&N administration neither consulted nor informed the southern Nicobarese of its plans.

Despite verbal supplications and a letter in August 2022 from the Little & Great Nicobar Tribal Council that expressed the community's concerns to the A&N administration and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the A&N administration proceeded to issue official notifications in October 2022, designating the whole of Meroë (2.73 square kilometres) and Menchal (1.29 sq. km), along with a 13.75 sq. km area on Little Nicobar (140 sq. km), as wildlife sanctuaries.

Masking an ecological disaster

The selection of Meroë and Menchal Islands as conservation reserves for coral reefs and Megapode birds is arbitrary. Menchal does not have more than a pair or two of the endemic Megapode birds. Similarly, questions arise regarding the actual diversity and abundance of corals on Meroë Island.

Notably, the announcement of wildlife sanctuaries coincided with growing scrutiny and criticism from experts over the denotification of the Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary for a ₹72,000-crore mega project on Great Nicobar, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Establishing exclusionary conservation areas in a region, which is already a paradise for biodiversity, stems from the fact that the champions of the mega project are aware of the extensive environmental and social damage that the project will entail. It will devastate about eight to 10 lakh evergreen forest trees, smother and gouge out scores of coral reefs found along Galathea Bay, destroy the nesting site for the globally endangered Leatherback sea turtle species, devastate hundreds of nesting mounds of Nicobar Megapodes, and kill as many crocodiles.

Furthermore, it will prevent the indigenous Great Nicobar islanders from returning to their pre-tsunami homeland where they husbanded pigs and chicken, cultivated coconut and betel nut trees, and lived simple and gregarious lives. Most importantly, it will uproot three or more settlements of the Shompen (a 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group') and permanently destroy their foraging and hunting grounds.

The unilateral decision to establish wildlife sanctuaries disregards the islands' profound significance to the indigenous population. Their ancestral lands are unjustly perceived as "no-man's-land" to appease conservationists, investors, public opinion, and more.

Support earth's guardians

Globally, governments blatantly violate indigenous people's rights by evicting them from their ancestral lands, often under the guise of development, national interest, conservation projects, among others. Approximately 476 million indigenous peoples, constitute about 6% of the global population. Indigenous territories cover roughly 22% of the planet and harbour 80% of its biodiversity.

Indigenous peoples are the original guardians of our earth. The world must learn from their wisdom. Reason and justice dictate that in southern Nicobar, we should support and empower the islanders to continue to steward their ancestral territories, rather than robbing them of their lands, resources, lifeways, and worldviews.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deserve praise

The dedication and the determination of India's election officials who have trekked through dense forests and across rivers to ensure that no voter is left behind is something that must be praised. They deserve a salute for their commitment and passion as they have gone the extra mile to uphold democracy. Celebrate these unsung heroes who try and ensure that every vote counts.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

On omissions

There have been many complaints made by voters in Tamil Nadu of their names having been 'deleted' from the voters' list. It can be argued that it is the responsibility of the voter to check this. But the Election Commission of India (ECI) cannot escape responsibility if a whole bunch of names goes missing — in some instances 80 names or more in a booth, or about a lakh of names in a constituency. The ECI may recall its undertaking to the Supreme Court of India that it will not remove any name without prior intimation to the person concerned. The ECI should start depending on technology rather than on part-time booth-level officers.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In a Sunday Magazine story titled "General Elections 2024 | When campaign trails were carnivals" (April 21, 2024), under the subhead, "Larger-than-life personalities" the year must be changed from 1986 to 1989. Also, Jayalalithaa was seeking election from Bodinayakanur — not re-election as published.

A sentence in "Designated successor" ('Profiles' page, April 21, 2024) that read "Three high-profile politicians resigned after a ... to sully the reputation of the party" should be amended to say: "Two high-profile politicians resigned last year after an ethics case rocked the party and a minister resigned in January this year after he was charged with corruption."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The challenges of renewable energy

Sukanya Khar

is researcher at the School of Public Policy at IIT Delhi

Kaveri Iychettira

is researcher at the School of Public Policy at IIT Delhi

At a recent speech, the United Nations Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said the "next two years are essential in saving our planet." Record-breaking heat, shortage of water, and other environmental issues are regular headlines in the context of the need to achieve development, increase employment, and reduce poverty and inequality, among others. Yet, the linkages between the pathways of development, sustainability, and climate change mitigation are far from well-understood. Our current models of development drive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, are unsustainable, and inequitable. Although India aims to achieve Net Zero GHG emissions by 2070, mainly led by a massive transition to large-scale renewable energy, the implications of such a transition on developmental or sustainability outcomes are unclear at the local and national levels.

Examining solar parks

Let us take the example of large-scale solar parks – a key pillar of India's mitigation strategy. We have 214 sq. km of land under solar parks, but some studies estimate that we may need 50,000-75,000 sq. km, which is about half the size of Tamil Nadu, to achieve our Net Zero targets.

At the local level, farmers in villages near India's two largest solar parks - in Bhadla in Rajasthan and Pavagada in Karnataka - report different experiences. In Bhadla, farmers have lost sacred common lands called Orans and pastoralists are faced with shrinking grazing lands, forcing some to sell their livestock at throwaway prices. Such losses have led to protests demanding recognition of common land under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. On the other hand, many farmers in Pavagada were content with the steady annual income they received by leasing out land for solar parks. This land was drought-stricken and did not yield significant agricultural income. All the same, water security issues and economic disparity between large and small landowners are challenges for the region.

At a more regional or national scale, solar parks may compete for essential natural resources. Solar panels require large amounts of water for their regular cleaning. Yet, our current national-level estimates for the land available for solar parks do not account for the availability of nearby water sources. Similarly, the land needed for solar parks may compete with other productive activities – agriculture and related livelihoods, with the potential for impacts on food security. Impacts on biodiversity loss with the construction of large-scale solar parks are also location-specific, and under-researched. For instance, open natural systems such as deserts provide essential ecosystem services that, if disturbed, would cause ecological damage and even contribute to climate change. Crucially, all of these resource requirements and impacts on livelihoods and biodiversity are subject to uncertainty regarding feasibility and economic viability of other emerging low carbon technologies and the changing climate itself.

Different approaches

Large-scale renewable energy development can avoid reproducing the injustices of past large-scale infrastructure projects, while being sensitive to developmental objectives. Experimenting with ownership models is one approach. The parks need not necessarily be owned by the state or private companies. Community initiatives could help generate revenues for the communities, further promoting small businesses and upskilling, improving incomes, stimulating local economies, and improving energy access.

Large-scale renewable energy development can avoid reproducing the injustices of past large-scale infrastructure projects, while being sensitive to developmental objectives

Solar and wind park development is exempted from Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. The legal and regulatory architecture must be revised and strengthened to limit adverse social and environmental consequences. In terms of impacts on small and medium landowners where private land is being used, there is no mechanism to monitor if a fair price is paid to those leasing their land. Involving local governance units in the planning and siting processes can provide an opportunity to align local developmental objectives with solar park development.

Wasteland classification needs a significant overhaul. Recognition of commons under the FRA would help improve environmental and equity outcomes by granting land ownership to communities dependent on commons. If such land is to be leased or acquired for solar parks, solar park development corporations will have to engage with local governance units such as the Gram Sabha to initiate the project.

Encouraging research and experimenting with 'agrivoltaics' is another way to think about sustainably developing renewable energy. Agrivoltaics pair solar with agriculture, creating energy and providing space for crops, grazing, and native habitats under and between panels. Thus, farmers can grow crops while also being 'prosumers' – producers and consumers – of energy.

Many of these challenges and opportunities relate to solar in particular, but similar issues abound with other mitigation technologies. Wind energy, for instance, has adverse consequences on bird ecosystems. Large-scale renewable energy projects could have positive employment outcomes at the district level, but they lead to massive employment shifts between sectors at the national level. Adequate skilling and training programmes targeting the unskilled and poorer populations are essential to protect them.

Seize the opportunity

We are at the cusp of a second green revolution, this time involving energy. We have an opportunity to anticipate the unintended consequences of this revolution, and align our technological, economic, and institutional structures to maximise synergies between sustainability, climate change mitigation, and development related outcomes.

Healing land, water and ourselves

It is time for local nature-based learning to become a part of school education

Yuvan Aves

At a government boys' school in Chennai, I showed the headmaster the various resources we have made for Chennai's biodiversity and how we intend to use them at his school. Being connected to nature is being increasingly acknowledged in the world as crucial for all forms of well-being in children. I requested him for the environmental science period to run nature-based learning sessions. He explained that that time is used for extra science and maths classes. However, he added, "This stuff is interesting. We will have to find some other time for this. I want my boys to be interested in something meaningful; normal academics feels like oppression to most of them." I was both surprised by and grateful for his openness to such a new pedagogy of learning. A year later, he will see that his children's language capacities, interest in science, and motivation to learn have steeply increased through nature connectedness.

Last year, for the first time, the Earth Commission quantified boundaries for all the nine processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system: climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, freshwater use, biogeochemical flows, ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol pollution, stratospheric ozone depletion, and release of novel chemicals. Research showed that six of the nine planetary boundaries are being crossed. ESBs plead for a radical reallocation of attention in the spectrum of education policies. It is important to learn about climate but also about the nearby wetlands, trees, heat, food, insects and community struggles. ESBs beg to differ on the articulation of the crisis itself, which splits climate from the rest as the most impacted. The crisis really is of diminishing life and living conditions. Climate change can be abstract, but the river, rain, butterflies, trees, and people are not.

To create learning spaces emplaced in the local living world comes with more challenges than mere text-based climate literacy. Yet India is full of powerful practitioners. 'Nature Classrooms' create a host of local nature-based resources which schools across Karnataka and other States use. Each year, the Youth Conservation Action Network trains a cohort of young teachers from various States, who then go back and establish nature programmes in their regions. The Canopy Collective and Green Hub in the Northeast train teachers to set up their own local nature programmes in the forest while simultaneously collaborating with biodiversity management committees.

The distinction these practitioners make is that learning is just not about nature; it takes places through and in nature. For human beings to grow as environmental stewards lifelong, direct engagement with nature is a necessary part of education, as Professor Louise Chawla points out. This needs to span meaningfully across developmental age groups, with younger children observing, playing in, and connecting with local nature and older ones interacting with more complex issues and learning to be active citizens of a multispecies society.

But nature education faces many hurdles such as access to nature itself; various structural barriers to practice direct engagement; and the absence of educators who can facilitate learning in nature and a pedagogy which can support such educators. A pedagogy of action and engagement can also only be place-based – unique to, say, Ladakh's landscape in Ladakh or Mumbai's landscape in Mumbai. "Direct engagement with nature works far better than traditional classroom instruction for the same objectives," says Professor Ming Kuo. Connecting with local nature can boost both literacy and conservation attitudes together.

The time has come for local nature-based learning to become a crucial part of school education. This is among the urgent pleas of the collapsing Earth systems. In almost every district, there are practitioners and communities who can make such a policy and pedagogy a reality overnight, if only there is political will. Children need nature connection, and nature needs children growing up in it. If such a diversified policy entered the mainstream, within a generation we would have healed our lands, waters, and ourselves.

Yuvan Aves is an author, environmental activist and founder of Palluyir trust for Nature education and Research

Sustaining our earth and nourishing our bodies

There is a need to develop a policy framework at the intersection of gender, climate, nutrition, and food value chains

Neeraja Nitin Kudimotri

The women of a self-help group in Khamdorgi village in Kanker district, Chhattisgarh, have spared 10 decimals of land for multi-layer farming to mitigate land degradation and under-nutrition, and to secure round-the-year incomes. They created four layers: the root layer to grow radish and beetroot; the surface layer for leafy vegetables; an above-the-surface layer for brinjal; and creepers (bottle gourd and long beans). They also planted two papaya trees, which are yet to bear fruits. Apart from minimising disruptions to the soil ecosystem, the initiative started to generate an income for the group in two months with minimal input costs while promising nutritional security.

An intricate relationship

Climate change, nutrition, and food security have an intricate relationship emphasising an urgent need to address issues at this intersection at both the global and the regional levels.

The Rome Declaration on Nutrition underscores the challenges existing food systems face in providing sufficient, safe, diverse, and nutrient-rich food for everyone. Approximately 800 million people worldwide don't have reliable access to food. Two billion people suffer from iron and zinc deficiencies. Food systems today are also responsible for a third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change impacts food value chains and affects agricultural yields, nutritional quality, food access, and energy-intensive processes. While a balanced diet is recommended, populations are often unable to have one thanks to disparities in production systems as well as individual dietary choices.

India itself suffers from many forms of malnutrition: 32% of children under five are underweight and 74% of the population can't afford a healthy diet. Unhealthy diets are leading to a surge in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases.

However, it is also true that over the years, India has made notable progress in understanding the sustainability and nutritional contents of diets. It is now important for India to reflect on whether healthy diets can help mitigate climate change as well. A sustainable diet needs to serve health and nutrition demands, meet cultural expectations, submit to economic necessities, and be just.

Farmers in a paddy field in the Godavari delta in Andhra Pradesh. THE HINDU

Women are especially disproportionately affected by climate change and poor nutrition, despite being important food-system stakeholders. In Chhattisgarh, some communities have more gender-just food systems - which are systems that recognise women as equal contributors to both productive and reproductive economies - with equal rights and entitlements, less drudgery, ability to access infrastructure and technologies, and with an even distribution of responsibilities. Communities in the State with a more gender-just food system were also seen to be more resilient against shocks like droughts. When women's collectives are involved in decision-making about their livelihoods, they get better access to financial assets, natural resources, and knowledge. Not surprisingly, then, they are more productive and have better health and nutritional outcomes.

Indigenous food systems in Chhattisgarh have sustained communities for thousands of generations. They are derived mainly from the surrounding natural environment with minimum human intervention. Many people live in forests and consume edible greens, fleshy fruits, root vegetables, mushrooms, grains, various forest produce, and wild meat. Working with local communities on their diets based on locally available food has been able to improve their nutrition status.

Chhattisgarh's indigenous women have also been known to establish "famine reserves" of millets - which require far fewer inputs than paddy crops - by storing grains using traditional methods. And increasing their access to millets in this way can improve their bodies' iron content.

Reducing emissions

A diet higher in plant-based foods is also more environmentally sustainable than one with more animal foods. The latter can be substituted with plant-based meats and dairy alternatives. We also need to shift to plants that consume less energy, land, and water, resulting in lower emissions. Researchers have found that the concentrations of protein, iron, and zinc could be 3-17% lower in crops grown in environments where the atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2) concentration is 550 ppm versus when the CO_2 concentration is just above 400 ppm (Matthew R. Smith and Samuel Myers, 2018). Given this warning, we need to adopt a value-chain approach to improve the benefits that accrue to communities, such as lowering emissions together with optimising for their dietary choices/needs from the household level.

One example of such an approach is 'Millet Mission Chhattisgarh', which the State government launched in 2021 to establish Chhattisgarh as India's leading producer of millets. The State identified 85 blocks in 20 districts as key cultivation areas and allocated ₹170 crore and an input grant of ₹9,000 per hectare. The initiative has the potential to address both nutritional and environmental concerns by showcasing millets' nutritional value, low water footprint, and climate resilience, and potential to further gender equality.

The way forward must thus include scaling up (as well as decentralising) diversified food production systems, promoting underutilised indigenous foods, and developing an analytical framework at the intersection of gender, climate, nutrition, and food value chains. Focusing on nutritious food alone will not help reduce the impact of food systems on the environment. We need to continuously and extensively monitor emissions linked to the production and distribution of food, and ensure the corresponding assessment tools are also more accessible to local communities.

Diverse foods consumption

In the final analysis, there is strong evidence that diverse food consumption can have a strong impact on nutrition and on per capita emissions. Focusing on nutritious diets alone will not help assess and reduce impact on the environment; it must be supported by linking diets to emissions as well. This in turn could force production systems to become more diverse, nutrition-sensitive, and emissions-sensitive.

Apart from national and regional policies, food production and consumption are also influenced by cultural values, societal norms, public policies, and markets - signalling a need to integrate society, government, and markets (*samaaj, sarkar aur bazaar*).

Neeraja Nitin Kudimotri is Lead (Action Pilots) in Chhattisgarh, Transform Rural India, Rural Welfare, Millets Promotions, Environment and Climate, Adivasis and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1974

Sikkim ruler for closer co-operation with India

Gangtok, April 21: The Chogyal of Sikkim said here to-day that there was no change in the Government of India's attitude towards Sikkim since the time of late Prime Minister Nehru. "They always appreciate our problems," he added.

Speaking to a group of Indian correspondents who came to cover the Assembly elections, the Chogyal acknowledged India's assistance and said, "We could not advance so fast if there was any lack of assistance from India."

He stressed the need for closer co-operation and friendship with India and said, "We have got tremendous amount of Indo-Sikkimese co-operation and sound economic relations encouraged by late Prime Minister Nehru."

The Chogyal said Indian assistance was in two parts. The economic part of the assistance was an important if not more than the political.

He told a questioner that Sikkim had undertaken a number of revenue earning and social welfare schemes and was trying to develop a self-generating economy of its own. It was their endeavour to see that the fruits of all these schemes reached all classes of people, he added. Asked whether the recent elections were fair and free, the Chogyal said "we tried to achieve free and fair elections. I am quite confident the Election Commission has done its best."

The newly elected Assembly would be convened as soon as possible, he added.

Answering a question about abolition of private estates, envisaged in the Sikkim Congress election manifesto, the Chogyal said "This is a personal matter affecting the family. There is no difference between a person living in a private estate or a housesite."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1924

The Viceroy's tour

Associated Press of India; Simla, April 21. His Excellency the Viceroy arrived to-day. H.E. had fair sport in the Jungles near Pinjore and during the three days, his Excellency was the guest of the Maharajah or Patiala. The party bagged a panther and a number of theetal stags.

Soren was arrested for not leaving INDIA bloc: Kharge

INDIA leaders at the Ulgulan rally in Ranchi on Sunday. PTI

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was arrested for refusing to leave the INDIA bloc, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged at a joint Opposition rally in Ranchi on Sunday, warning Prime Minister Narendra Modi that if he tried to "terrorise" tribals, he himself would be destroyed.

In a show of Opposition unity and strength, the leaders of the 28 parties who constitute the INDIA bloc shared the stage at the Ulgulan Nyay Maharally in Ranchi, taking it in turns to lash out at Mr. Modi and the ruling BJP for allegedly putting two CMs in jail – Mr. Soren and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

The wives of both men were present with messages from their jailed spouses, even as INDIA leaders vowed to protect the Constitution and democracy by uprooting the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the ongoing Lok Sabha election.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi skipped the rally due to ill health, but senior leaders present included Mr. Kharge; Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha chief Shibu Soren and Jharkhand CM Champai Soren, Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Trinamool Congress leader Vivek Gupta, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, and Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya. The INDIA bloc has borrowed the word '*ulgulan*', meaning 'revolution', from the local dialect; the word was coined by Adivasi icon Birsa Munda to describe his fight against the British for water, forest, and land, and the Opposition coalition is taking a cue from that historic revolution to describe its own electoral battle against the BJP.

Congress accuses Modi of resorting to 'hate speech'

Opposition party says PM is spreading lies about its manifesto; Rahul says Modi is disappointed after the first phase of polling and that is why he is diverting attention from people's issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to show one paragraph in its manifesto where it talked about redistributing wealth to the Muslim community.

Addressing a rally in Rajasthan earlier in the day, the Prime Minister had claimed that the Congress manifesto stated that if the party comes to power, "they will calculate the amount of gold that mothers and sisters have, get information about it and then distribute that property". Mr. Modi added that "as the Manmohan Singh government had said earlier, Muslims have the first right to property".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addresses a public meeting at Satna in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. ANI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, said the Prime Minister had delivered the "hate speech" after realising that the INDIA bloc had won the first round.

Mr. Kharge alleged that lying for power and making baseless allegations about opponents were the values of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party (RSS-BJP) combine that Mr. Modi has imbibed. "In the history of India, no Prime Minister has lowered the dignity of his post as much as Modi *ji* has," the Congress chief added.

"To win one election, you are spreading lies in the name of Hindu-Muslim. I challenge the Prime Minister to show us if there is any word like Muslim or Hindu in our manifesto. Either you accept this challenge or stop lying," Congress leader Pawan Khera said on X.

Responding to the Prime Minister's speech, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, claimed that "the Prime Minister's lies have gone very low after the disappointment of the first phase of polling and that's why he is diverting attention from people's issues".

"The trends of Congress's revolutionary manifesto has started coming," Mr. Gandhi added.

Congress blames Modi-led govt. for wage loss, inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday alleged that workers suffered unprecedented wage loss under the Narendra Modi regime in the last 10 years. The party said the purchasing power of the workers had also decreased due to slow wage growth and back-breaking inflation.

Blaming Prime Minister Modi for the decline in worker wages, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement that multiple data sources were unanimous in showing that workers could buy less today than they could 10 years ago. "A combination of slow wage growth and back-breaking inflation has caused an unprecedented decline in real wages (wages adjusted for price rise)," he said, citing the Labour Bureau's Wage Rate Index. "Between 2014 and 2023, real wages for labourers have stagnated, with clear declines in real wages in Modi-II," he said.

Quoting the Ministry of Agriculture's 'Agricultural Statistics at a Glance', the former Minister said that under the 10 years of the UPA government, the real wages for agricultural labourers grew at 6.8% each year. "Under PM Modi, real wages for agricultural labourers declined by 1.3% each year," he said.

He said the Periodic Labour Force Survey series reported that average real earnings over time had stagnated between 2017 and 2022 across all employment types – salaried workers, casual workers, and self-employed workers.

He also said that investment as a percentage of the GDP came down in the last ten years.

Unique ID must be generated for organ donation: Centre

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has issued the directive to eliminate commercial dealing in organs

All cases of organ transplants, whether from a living or deceased donor, will be allocated a unique National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)-ID for both the donor and the recipient.

It must be generated by the hospital from the NOTTO website (*www.notto.mohfw.gov.in*). The Union Health Ministry has issued the directive to eliminate commercial dealing in organs, especially those involving foreign citizens.

The latest order, issued to all States and Union Territories, comes following reports of malpractice and a surge in the number of organ transplants related to foreigners in the country, the Ministry said. It has also called for stricter monitoring of such transplants by the local authorities.

Earlier this month, the Ministry had said that the Appropriate Authority of the State, appointed according to the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 should investigate transplants in respect of foreign nationals in the State, apart from any complaints concerning the breach of any provision or rule of the Act, with appropriate action to be taken whenever such violations come to light.

"NOTTO-ID is mandatory for considering allocation of organs in case of deceased donor transplant, this ID in case of a living donor transplant, shall also be generated at the earliest, maximum within 48 hours after the transplant surgery is done," the communication said.

Regular inspection

The Ministry has also called for devising a system of regular inspection of the registered hospital for transplant/retrieval by the appropriate State authority, and to monitor them on-site on the quality of transplantation, post operative follow-up of the donor and recipient, and outcomes.

Any violation of the THOTA, 1994 and its rules have to be probed, and appropriate action includes the suspension of registration for performing organ transplants if hospitals are involved in illegal activities.

Animal rights campaigners, experts rally behind govt.'s breed-specific ban on dogs

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

After six different High Courts across India decided to either nullify or suspend the Centre's circular last month banning 23 breeds of "ferocious" dogs in India, animal rights groups and experts have come out in support of the government's breed-specific ban initiative.

On March 12 this year, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying issued a circular prohibiting import, breeding, and selling of breeds including the Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Dogo Argentine, and American Bulldog.

While the High Courts of Kerala, Madras, Rajasthan, and Calcutta stayed the circular, two High Courts of Delhi and Karnataka have quashed the circular with a direction to the Ministry to give an opportunity to all the stakeholders to raise their objections before it came out with a fresh circular.

Rights and rules

However, the India office of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), an international non-profit fighting for animal rights, has stood behind the Ministry's initiative. "The circular issued by the central government responsibly aimed to stop pit bull-type breeds from being torn apart in illegal dogfights, and to protect citizens from being attacked by dogs bred to be unstoppable weapons," PETA said in a statement. It added that 80 million dogs and cats suffer on India's streets. Pit bulls and related breeds are the most commonly abandoned in India, in a country where animal shelters are already overcrowded. "Pit bulls and related breeds are also otherwise typically kept on heavy chains as attack dogs, resulting in aggressive, defensive behaviour and a lifetime of suffering."

According to PETA, pit bulls and related breeds are among dogs commonly abandoned in India.

Gauri Maulekhi, a prominent animal welfare activist and trustee of People for Animals, an India-based non-profit with a network of 26 animal hospitals across the country, told *The Hindu*, "India has 4 crore street dogs, which are homeless, and the activity of proliferating or breeding more dogs of any variety – let alone the foreign variety – is basically not in the interest of the country."

Varda Mehrotra, animal rights activist and founder of Samayu, agrees that banning certain dog breeds is a commendable step. However, she felt the ban needs to be practical in terms of its implementation, so it doesn't lead to increased abandonment or harassment of pet owners.

Opposing arguments

People who had challenged the circular before the High Courts had argued that it lacked scientific basis, and was devoid of research or reports. They had said that the circular lacked a comprehensive framework or research-backed methodology to define what constituted a "ferocious breed" and how the selected breeds fit this classification. They further stated that enforcing breed-specific legislation can be challenging, especially when determining a dog's breed is not straightforward or when dealing with mixed-breed dogs.

Australia to deepen ties with 'top-tier partner' India

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India is a top-tier security partner for Australia, stated its new National Defence Strategy-2024 released last week, and through the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and India, the government is continuing to prioritise practical and tangible cooperation that directly contributes to Indo-Pacific stability.

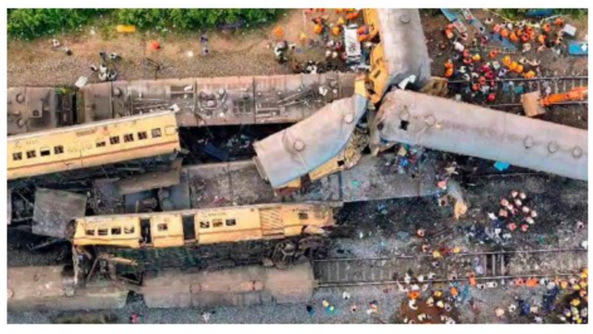
"Australia will continue to support India's key role in the region by increasing the depth and complexity of our defence cooperation. The government will continue to seek opportunities with India to drive practical bilateral and multilateral cooperation, defence industry cooperation and information sharing," the NDS released on April 17 said.

India is a "top tier" security partner for Australia, Australian envoy in India Philip Green said on X.

Australia will also invest in deepening our defence relationships with partners across Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as well as in the Indian Ocean and North Asia regions, the NDS said.

The NDS also noted that the risk of a conflict is increasing, including on the border with India.

Report faults crew, station staff and safety lapses on train for A.P. accident



Behind the tragedy: The site of the train accident in Vizianagaram of Andhra Pradesh on October 29, 2023 that left 17 people dead. ANI

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

An investigation into a major train accident that left 17 people dead and 34 others injured in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh last year has concluded that the accident was caused by an "error in train working", adding that the collision could have been averted had the crew and operating staff followed the rules.

The inquiry by Pranjeev Saxena, Commissioner of Railway Safety of the North East Circle, has also exposed lapses on the part of the railway administration; the National Disaster Response Force's lack of expertise in handling relief and rescue operations after train accidents; and systemic safety lapses, including the failure of anti-telescopic features on the trains and the malfunctioning of an automatic signalling system.

These findings come at a time when Indian Railways is promoting a 'Safety First' culture across its network, amidst an increasing number of accidents and instances of trains passing signal at danger.

Primary reasons

A locomotive pilot's decision to overshoot a signal in danger and his assistant's failure to apply the emergency brakes even in the face of the approaching collision were the primary reasons why Train No. 08504 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger smashed into the rear of Train No. 08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger at a speed of 82 kmph on October 29, 2023, according to the final CRS report. The accident occurred between Kantakapalle and Alamanda railway stations in the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

Despite the failure of three automatic signals on all three lines, the Signal & Telecommunication staff did not indicate actions or precautions to be taken by the station and control staff. Badly drafted rules led to ambiguity on what was to be done in case of automatic signal failure, the report said.

For some reason, the stationmasters started informing the crew of approaching trains about the failed signals, which encouraged them to bypass the prescribed precautions. In violation of all rules, the stationmaster of Kantakapalle issued a Private Number authorising the loco pilot of Train No 08504 to proceed.

Eight years in the making, Kashmir's magic carpet is a marvel

At least 30 people are required to unroll the intricate marvel, which weighs 1,685 kg and features over three crore knots; in the time it took to weave the carpet, 200 artisans returned to the traditional trade, overcoming several challenges such as the pandemic and dilution of Article 370

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The famous Hazratbal dargah in Srinagar is attracting people for a rare spectacle this week – the washing and clipping of the largest carpet woven in Kashmir by far. The intricate marvel is 72 ft in length and 40 ft in width, weighs 1,685 kg, and features over three crore knots.

The rare attempt pits Kashmiri artisans for the first time against their traditional Iranian rivals, who have already woven a carpet the size of a soccer field at 60,468 sq. ft. The dargah provides a safe and large enough space for clipping and washing the huge and valuable carpet, which has taken eight years to complete and is likely to embellish a palace in the Middle East.

"At least 30 people are required to unroll the carpet. It would take 30-35 professional washers to deal with the carpet on a daily basis," Zahoor Ahmad Shah, owner of Shah Qadir and Sons, told *The Hindu*.

Samples of water from the nearby Dal lake have been sent for testing to the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Srinagar. "We await the report to ensure the water will not harm the carpet," Mr. Shah said.

Big and beautiful: Artisans spent eight years to complete the large carpet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Shah's company received the order in 2014 and began working on it in 2015. "It was not an easy task. In between, we were hit by several challenges, including the 2014 floods, the dilution of Article 370 and the pandemic," he said. The carpet is woven in the Kashan style, a historic design of the Iranian city of Kashan.

The company had to hire engineers to remake a carpet loom at the Vailoo-Kunzar village in north Kashmir's Baramulla district as Kashmir had no loom to match the task. Cranes lifted the carpet on to large trawlers for its transportation from Baramulla to Srinagar. "Each day, 25-30 artisans spent hours upon hours to accomplish the feat," Mr. Shah said.

He said that around 200 artisans who had switched to other professions returned to the trade for this project. "The carpet industry is waning in Kashmir and poor wages are pushing artisans to other professions. I believe that projects like this can rekindle hope," Mr. Shah said.

Kashmir, despite being among the leading carpet-producing States in India, has seen only slow growth in the sector due to the falling numbers of artisans. Over one lakh artisans are employed by the carpet industry here.

"Kashmiris have been weaving carpets for centuries. However, size has always remained a constraint. The oldest and the largest carpet from Kashmir continues to embellish the Darbar Hall of the Grand Lalit Hotel in Srinagar. This is a watershed revival moment for Kashmir's carpet industry," Mahmood Ahmed Shah, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Industries, Kashmir, said.

ELECTIONS 2024

Won't edit poll song on EC order: Uddhav

The Election Commission issued notice to Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) for using "*Jai Bhavani Jai Shivaji*" and "Hindu *ha tujha dharma*" words in its campaign song, citing its religious connotations with a Hindu goddess.

However, Mr. Thackeray responded, stating, "We will not remove these words under any circumstance." He asked the EC to address similar instances in the BJP's campaigns, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's use of "*Bajrang Bali ki Jai*" during the Karnataka Assembly polls.

He defended the inclusion of words, citing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's establishment of Hindavi Swaraj with the blessings of Goddess Tulja Bhavani, and said they were not soliciting votes based on religion.

Uddhav Thackeray addressing a press conference in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI

BJP targeting me and Abhishek, says Mamata

A day after Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, said that an explosion in the politics of West Bengal was imminent, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged on Sunday that the BJP was targeting her and her nephew, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

"This talk about exploding bombs. I am the target and so is Abhishek. They are very dangerous. They could kill us. But we are not concerned about our safety," she said, while addressing a gathering in Kumarganj.

Mr. Adhikari had claimed that a "huge explosion" would shatter the Trinamool. "Wait for Monday. A huge explosion will shatter '*Pisi-Bhaipo's* (aunt-nephew) party. They will not recover," he said. He clarified that he was referring to a 'political explosion'.

> Congress is a synonym for scams, terrorism and Naxalism. It instigated them [youth] to fight against the country in the name of Naxalism
>
> **YOGI ADITYANATH**
> Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

BJP's only job is to abuse Cong.: Kharge in M.P.

If people brought the "Modi and Shah" government back, democracy would end in the nation, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Sunday at a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Satna. He said that the BJP's only job was to "abuse" the Congress and "destroy" democracy.

> The youth believed Modi and voted for him. When they asked for jobs, Modi asked them to sell Pakodas. Is it not a great breach of trust?
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Karnataka Chief Minister

BJP let down Bengali Hindus with CAA, says Sushmita Dev

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) let down Bengali Hindus with the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019 which is much ado about nothing, Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev said on Sunday.

Ms. Dev, a Rajya Sabha member, said the euphoria among the Bengali Hindus surrounding the CAA and the framing of its rules has turned into disillusionment. She is from southern Assam's Barak Valley where Bengali Hindus and Muslims are numerically almost equal.

The CAA seeks to fast-track Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who took refuge in India till December 31, 2014.

During her campaign for Radheshyam Biswas, the Trinamool candidate from the Silchar Lok Sabha constituency, she said the CAA was an overused political tool that had nothing to offer to the Hindus. She also accused the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre of neglecting the Bengali Hindus and Muslims in Barak Valley.

"The stringent CAA rules, notified over four years after its enactment, have made it almost impossible for people to apply. The requirements add to the hurdles faced by Bengali Hindus during the exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC)," she said. The complete draft of the NRC was published in August 2019, excluding some 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applicants from the citizenship list for lack of documents to prove their nationality.

Ms. Dev emphasised the Trinamool's commitment to providing a fresh alternative for voters in Assam.

The Trinamool is contesting four of Assam's 14 Lok Sabha constituencies. Barpeta, Kokrajhar, and Lakhimpur are the other seats.

Spotlight on farmer issues in Chhattisgarh's agro-belt

In the three seats going to the polls on April 26, Congress is counting on OBC voters to bag a win, while the ruling BJP has been campaigning on welfare schemes, Ram Mandir and Naxal issue

OVERVIEW

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The results of Rajnandgaon, Mahasamund and Kanker, the three Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh where voting will be held in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 26, will perhaps reflect the mood of the farmers in the predominantly rural State.

While the Mahasamund region is home to big and small farmers, Rajnandgaon too has a huge agro-belt. The Kanker seat, which encompasses the Kanker and Balod districts, has a substantial number of farmers in Balod and parts of Kanker. Paddy is the main crop in the Mahanadi basin while Balod and Rajnandgaon are also sugar cane belts.

The seats will be a test for both the BJP, which assumed power in the State a few months ago, as well as the Congress.

The new BJP government has been buying 21 quintals per acre of paddy at ₹3,100 per quintal, and has transferred pending bonus to paddy farmers, fulfilling two promises it made in its election manifesto. On the other hand, the Congress, which lost power in 2023 despite promising a higher procurement price and farm loan waiver, has been highlighting its loan-waiver promise yet again.

Past results

The table lists the 2019 winners and runners-up in the three Chhattisgarh constituencies going to the polls in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections

Constituency	Party (Winner)	Party (Runner-up)
2019		
Kanker	BJP	Cong.
Mahasamund	BJP	Cong.
Rajnandgaon	BJP	Cong.
2014		
Kanker	BJP	Cong.
Mahasamund	BJP	Cong.
Rajnandgaon	BJP	Cong.

The Congress is also counting on the Other Backward Class (OBC) voters who form a sizeable chunk of the electorate in all three seats with its social justice pitch and caste census demands, even as it accuses the BJP of trying to change the Constitution.

Holding a rally in Chhattisgarh's Balod in support of the Congress's Kanker seat candidate Biresh Thakur on Sunday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi alleged that the BJP-led Central government wanted to change the Constitution and curtail the rights of people. "The Constitution has given you the right to vote, given you reservations, ensured protection of tribal culture and facilitated the development of Dalits. The BJP-led Union government wants to change this Constitution and curtail people's rights," she said.

The BJP dismisses these allegations. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said it was the Congress that has always been misleading people and instilling fear in their minds. "We have been in power for the past 10 years at the Centre. Have we done anything that suggested we would want to change the Constitution? When we abolished Article 370 from the Constitution, conforming with our ideology, couldn't we have made other changes to the Constitution if we wanted to? Congress is instilling fear. No one can change the Constitution and the BJP is not going to do so," says Mr. Sao.

The BJP has also based its campaign on the welfare schemes and the delivery record of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides banking on issues like Ram Mandir and Article 370 that it feels appeal to both urban and rural voters.

The party is also banking on issues such as conversions in the tribal belt of Kanker and after two back-to-back anti-Naxal operations in Bijapur and Kanker, is also attempting to build a new narrative accusing the Congress of supporting the Naxals.

There are some local caste equations that might also come into play in Mahasamund where former Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu has been fielded by the Congress against former MLA Rupkumari Choudhary of the BJP. With the district having a sizeable number of Sahu voters, the Congress is hoping the factor to work for it.

Given that polling in Bastar was held without any violence after a decade, officials are hopeful of a repeat in Kanker.

After Assembly poll defeat, Baghel looks for redemption

Sobhana K. Nair
RAIPUR

Bhupesh Baghel

This is the third Lok Sabha election that senior Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is fighting. The previous two attempts ended in failure. Once again he is back on the trail, this time from Rajnandgaon, to redeem his name after the loss in the 2023 Assembly election.

In the four Lok Sabha elections that Chhattisgarh has seen, the Congress's best performance was in 2019, winning two out of the 11 seats here. The Rajnandgaon constituency has been a bastion of the BJP for three straight terms since 2009. Mr. Baghel, like many other senior party leaders, was reluctant to contest from here, arguing that he would be pinned down to one constituency, but eventually gave in to pressure from the party's central leadership.

The Hindu met Mr. Baghel at his home in Bhilai on Friday. There was no fanfare to be seen, just a clutch of visitors hanging around to get his ear. Mr. Baghel's destination for the day is nearly 100 km away – the tribal hamlets of Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district.

2023 defeat

The defeat in the Assembly election was entirely unexpected, Mr. Baghel says. "EVM is a big reason for our defeat," he says. But he also accepts that anger against its legislators tripped the Congress.

"There was a larger narrative that the Congress is anyway returning to power, so the voters voted out the incumbent MLAs, whom they were dissatisfied with," he says, pushing the blame to the non-performance of his MLAs for the Congress's defeat.

The Congress secured 35 seats in the 90-member Assembly, a steep fall from the 68 it had won in 2019.

Mr. Baghel's first stop is Pagri village. On a green plastic mat, women sit in rapt attention. The men are standing at the margins. There is no loud music, no drums, not even much sloganeering. Mr. Baghel addresses the women directly in Chhattisgarhi. He lists out the welfare schemes run by his government that the BJP had stalled, he claims, including the distribution of 35 kg of rice to every household. In tribal areas, additionally, *chana* (a lentil), *gur* (jaggery) and salt was distributed, he says.

The BJP government claims that the allocation has not been reduced, the scheme has only been tweaked by changing the distribution unit from household to person.

The shadow of investigations into his role in the Mahadev betting app case hangs over him this election. So, instead of going big, it is a well thought out strategy, according to his aides, to address smaller meetings, reaching out to voters on a more personal basis. "In a single day, I address such gatherings in 20-30 villages. Hopefully, by the end of the campaign, I would have addressed 800-900 villages," Mr. Baghel says.

On Sunday, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is addressing two rallies in his constituency to make up for any remaining gaps.

In his speeches, Mr. Baghel dwells on a mix of topics – the record of his five years in government, welfare schemes promised by the Congress, and a scathing attack on his allegedly "missing" opponent, the BJP's incumbent MP, Santosh Pandey.

The Congress is hoping that Mr. Baghel will be able to pull through on the back of anti-incumbency against the Modi government, and the unpopularity of the sitting MP.

In Alappuzha, K.C. Venugopal faces a unique contest

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
ALAPPUZHA

K.C. Venugopal fought his first election when he was 13, as a high school student, against the CPI(M)-affiliated SFI's candidate. After numerous electoral battles over the next five decades – from college and university levels to the Assembly and the Lok Sabha, KCV – as he is called – is facing the most unique electoral contest of his lifetime.

He is in the battlefield to win the lone seat that the CPI(M) had won in Kerala in 2019, Alappuzha, even as he continues to coordinate a national alliance against the BJP that includes his principal rival in the State. He is general secretary (organisation) of the Congress. This battle between the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) for the 20th seat in Kerala says a lot about the challenges before the Opposition alliance. What is between the Left and the Congress could be termed a political situationship.

A keen fight: Congress leader K.C. Venugopal campaigning in Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> Nothing exposes CPI(M) and Congress's hypocrisy more than this — foes in Kerala and friends in Delhi. What politics is this?
>
> **RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**
> BJP candidate in Thiruvananthapuram

And the BJP is trying to enter Kerala by portraying the Left and the Congress as opportunistic.

The UDF and the LDF are at daggers drawn in the State, but the week to the polling on April 26 is turning out to be bitter for the frenemies. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi – whose candidacy from Wayanad in the State is also a point of acrimony – and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan have personally crossed swords. In the eye of the storm as the key Congress strategist, Mr. Venugopal tries to remain unfazed.

"Party workers wanted me to contest, and I cannot say no to the same people who had elected me earlier from Alappuzha," Mr. Venugopal explained his reason for contesting the Lok Sabha election though he is a Rajya Sabha member.

"I am contesting only because Congress workers insisted," he said even as he hopped from a convent to a temple, making quick stops at the homes of a few local influencers and at the market. Campaigning is at a furious pitch, but aides kept extending phones, going down a long list of people that they carried – party colleagues, alliance partners and journalists from across the country. "I am dividing my time between national affairs and local campaign," he said, expressing relief that he would be free from his own contest by the end of the week. "People like you and support you, but it is unthinkable that any candidate in Kerala can win without intensive campaigning," he said. "As of now, I dash to Delhi as and when required. After the second phase, my focus will shift to national politics completely."

As both the UDF and the LDF try to maximise their seats at the cost of the other, campaigning is no-holds-barred. Mr. Venugopal's Rajya Sabha colleague and comrade-in-arms in Delhi, CPI(M)'s John Britas, is scathing in his attack. "Rahul Gandhi and Mr. Venugopal are doing a great disservice to Opposition unity. Instead of coming and taking refuge in Kerala, Rahul should fight the BJP in the epicentre of communalism. As GSO, Mr. Venugopal should have been focusing on bringing together parties at the national level. If he wins in Alappuzha, he will vacate a Rajya Sabha seat which will be taken by the BJP. Rahul and Mr. Venugopal, both contesting in Kerala is against the spirit of unity against the BJP."

Threat of communalism

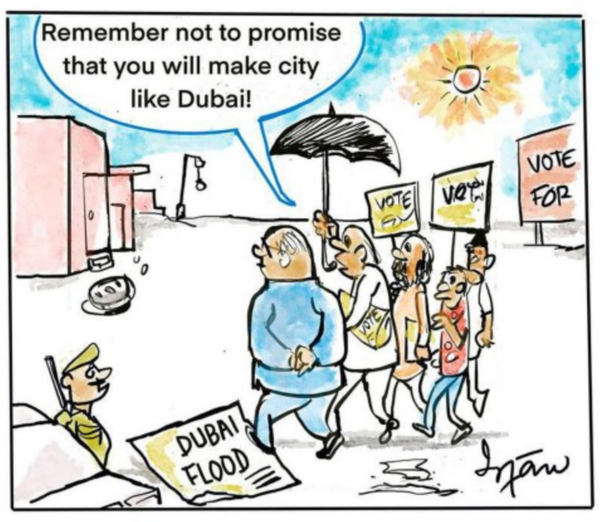
However, both Mr. Venugopal and Mr. Britas are united in their view that facing off in Kerala and cooperating elsewhere is par for the course. "Communalism of the BJP is the biggest threat to the country and the Congress is making all sacrifices to build a national coalition against it," he says, accusing the CPI(M) of helping the entry of the BJP in Kerala. "CPI(M) wants to finish the Congress in Kerala and usher in the BJP." Mr. Britas levels the same charge against the Congress.

"In a diverse country like India, it is not unusual or scandalous to contest against each other in a region and cooperate at the national level," argues Mr. Britas. Citing the works of scholar Robin Jeffrey, Mr. Britas argued that the healthy contest between the LDF and the UDF is at the heart of Kerala's unique politics. "This contest also ensures that political spectrum of Kerala is kept free of the BJP. So our fight is natural, historical and in alignment with objective of our reasonable collaboration at the national level to defeat the BJP."

The BJP is seeking to reconfigure Kerala's politics by terming the LDF and the UDF as two sides of the same coin. Among the candidates that are leading the BJP's charge in the State is Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Thiruvananthapuram.

"Both fronts have been profiting from creating fear among the people of Kerala but that is no longer working. They make accusations against us, of being anti-minority, anti-South India and so on. And then they are fighting against each other in Kerala. Nothing exposes their hypocrisy more than this – foes in Kerala and friends in Delhi. What politics is this?," he said His key campaign plank is that the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision are the alternative for the State. "They [the two fronts] are united in one thing – which is in creating barriers for development. They lack a vision for the State, and the BJP under Modi has changed direction of development thinking in Kerala," he said.

CARTOONSCAPE | IRFAN KHAN



A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

If RJD, Cong. win, there will be atrocities and riots, says Shah

Bihar turned into a 'jungle raj' during the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) regime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday, warning that riots and atrocities would take place if people of the State chose the RJD and its ally, the Congress, in the Lok Sabha election. "I hope people have not forgotten the regime of [RJD supremo] Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi. When Nitish Kumar became CM and Narendra Modi*ji* became the PM, the atrocities on the poor stopped," he said at a public meeting in Katihar. He accused the RJD and the Congress of not doing anything for the welfare of the Other Backward Classes and the Extremely Backward Classes.

Assam MP Naba Sarania's nomination papers rejected

The nomination papers of two-time Assam MP Naba Kumar Sarania, the chief of the Gana Suraksha Party, were rejected on Sunday after his Scheduled Tribe certificate was found invalid. According to an order issued, the MP "produced an ST certificate claiming to be a member of 'Rava' community" although he had contested and won the election from Kokrajhar in 2019 by producing an ST certificate claiming to be a member of the 'Boro Kachari' community, which the State-Level Scrutiny Committee struck down and the High Court upheld. "A person cannot belong to two different communities and cannot hold two ST certificates of different communities," the order said.

Legacy politics no match for Modi, says BJP's Maurya

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Keshav Prasad Maurya attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday for the "crutches of legacy" that sustain their political careers. "Leaders who seek power on the crutches of legacy cannot compete with the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is hundred per cent guaranteed," he said, adding that the BJP would "cross 400 seats" in the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Maurya, a prominent OBC face in the party, also took a dig at the SP chief, who is the leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, for his "long list of electoral defeats".

Former Uttarakhand Minister's daughter-in-law joins BJP

Former Uttarakhand Minister Harak Singh Rawat's daughter-in-law and model Anukriti Gusain joined the BJP on Sunday. Mr. Rawat was expelled from the BJP due to his alleged closeness to the Congress before the 2022 Assembly polls. Ms. Gusain had contested the 2022 Uttarakhand Assembly elections on Congress ticket. Ms. Gusain left the Congress and released a video message appealing to the public to vote for the BJP and make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister. She said she was impressed by the policies of the Prime Minister and the BJP and would work to strengthen the party. PTI

In Hapur, social ties lie shattered

Stray cattle, cow slaughter, and bovine protection continue to shape the socio-political narrative in western Uttar Pradesh in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election even as a court, after six years, sentenced 10 persons to life imprisonment in the Hapur lynching case of 2018

Anuj Kumar
HAPUR/ BULANDSHAHR

"We can't be seen with stray cattle at night," said Mohammed Umar, while tending to his cow in Madanpur Mustafabad village of Hapur. "Even if they maraud our fields, we wait till morning to gently push them, including the bulls, towards our Thakur brothers in Bajheda Khurd. They have a licence to hit them hard, shove them into a vehicle and send them to the cow shelter that has come up on the outskirts." Sarcasm is melting in April heat as his brother Usman joins in. Tense about their cow losing fertility, he added, "*Abhi nayi karai hai* [artificially inseminated] but if it doesn't work out, she won't be of any use. You would be thinking we will eat her up," he grinned.

The Muslim Rajput and Hindu Rajput-dominated villages hit the national headlines in 2018 when Qasim, a cattle trader, was lynched on the boundary of the two villages and self-styled cow vigilantes grievously injured a witness Mohammed Samayaddin. After six years, this March, a local court sentenced 10 men to life imprisonment and raised serious questions on police investigation in the case.

As the sun beats down on the wheat fields, Samayaddin is busy earning a living by harvesting wheat fields with his son and wife. It was during one such errand on June 18, 2018 that "the trouble ran into me", he said.

One memory that has stayed with the 66-year-old is the way the accused were welcomed by some residents of Bajheda when they initially got bail. "We were repeatedly reminded of their political clout and how they will tire us out," said Samayaddin, who took farming contracts in Bajheda before the incident. "Before the incident, there was no animosity. Still, every day scores of residents of Bajheda pass through our village but we have never given them any trouble." His brother Mohammed Yasin said he pleaded with the farmers in Bajheda reminding them of their long association but he was threatened. Though given protection by the government, he said, they had become used to living in fear and dealing with the fractured social ties. There were better doctors in Bajheda Khurd but they avoided going there after the incident as they felt unwanted.

A cow protection centre at Bajheda village in Hapur. ANUJ KUMAR

In Bajheda, Virendra Singh, who works in a beverage factory nearby, said the boys got carried away by the social atmosphere that prevailed at that time and that it was a crime that could not be condoned. "There was no evidence of cow slaughter. Either they should have planted remains of a cow at the scene or one of them should not be stupid enough to admit to the crime on camera."

Ravinder Singh, another resident, remembered a few days after the incident came to light, a Bajrang Dal team came to felicitate the team and there was a buzz in the village that it distributed some money among the boys. "When the television crew came, they would have thought it was a chance to earn more," he said, referring to the sting operation conducted by a news channel on the main accused that was accepted as evidence by the court.

He said Samayaddin's family had come for talks but they were humiliated and abused. "The sentiment was *apni sarkar hai* [it is our government]. When in the preliminary investigation it was described as an accident case, they were confident. If you so grossly cross the line, no leader can save you." Farmers in Bajheda admitted the village was feeling the pinch of the absence of Muslim workers in their fields.

'Falsely implicated'

However, Prem Pal Sisodia, father of one of the 10 convicted men, said his son was falsely implicated. "It was a case of accident. It is the judiciary that has faltered. How could all the 10 accused get the same quantum of punishment," he said.

While the residents in Mustafabad want to maintain "*vote ki oat* [secrecy of vote]", Mohammed Javed, the cleric of the village mosque, said he didn't see that the administration is against the community. "Recently, there were instances of boys on motorcycles shouting slogans in front of a mosque at the time of *namaz*. I approached the Circle Officer and he directed me to the police chowki. It took some time but the nuisance stopped. The hatred on social media has also decreased."

Using a caste-indicative word, Mohammed Khalid, a farmer, said the Scheduled Castes in the village were more sensitive.

Meanwhile, in Hapur, the BJP's election office is being run from a small *dharamshala* outside the Panchayati Gaushala run by a charitable trust since 1905. In the 36-member board, there is no Muslim member. "It is in our constitution. It unnecessarily creates problems," said Suresh Kumar Gupta, the four-term secretary and a member of the BJP.

On a phone call to get 100 trucks of fodder cleared from Shahjahanpur, Mr. Gupta said, "The local District Magistrate felt it will spike the prices of fodder in his district. I have requested the Hapur DM for help." He said 125 trucks of fodder were required every year to feed 2,200 bovine at the sprawling gaushala, which, according to Mr. Gupta, has an annual balance sheet of ₹5 crore.

Mr. Gupta said when the gaushala started getting ₹21 per cow per day from the State government the charity from the city was depleted. "The government-run cow protection centres get ₹50 per day per cow. There are around 50 such centres that have cropped up in Hapur after 2017 but they can't match our quality of feed and care."

Agreeing that a political economy has evolved around cows in the State, he said there could be leakages in the system. "The monitoring would be stricter if the government spent on a bigger but lesser number of protection centres. The State should buy vermicompost, cow dung logs, and urine by forming an organisation like NAFED. It will incentivise protection centres to take better care of old cattle." He said gaurakshaks' intervention was more posturing than love for the bovine.

Grand alliance is winning all seats in Bihar, BJP is being wiped out, says Lalu

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

After three days of campaigning in the scorching heat of Saran, from where his second daughter, the Singapore-based Rohini Acharya, is contesting the Lok Sabha election, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad appears cool and composed at the Patna residence of his wife, former Chief Minister Rabri Devi.

Mr. Prasad lives there with his family members, including Tejashwi Yadav, his younger son and political heir.

'BJP will be wiped out'

He was quick to say that he would not give any formal "interview" at this stage (of election) but could talk on "poll and politics".

"*Is baar BJP ka safaya ho jayega sab jagah se* [BJP will be wiped out from everywhere this time]," he said loudly.

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad. AMARNATH TEWARY

Asked when he would campaign for other *mahagatbandhan* candidates, he said, "*Haan jayenge* [yes, I will go]".

Mr. Prasad, so far, has gone for campaigning to Saran, where Ms. Acharya is taking on BJP candidate and MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy. She had earlier donated one of her kidneys to Mr. Prasad. Mr. Prasad himself had represented Saran twice, in 1977 and 1989. The Lok Sabha constituency has almost equal number of upper caste Rajput (to which Mr. Rudy belongs) and backward caste Yadav (to which Mr. Prasad belongs) voters.

Reacting to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's jibe that Mr. Prasad has "so many children", he said, "He [Nitish Kumar] has lost his senses. And this is why BJP has stopped taking him to their top leaders public meetings".

While addressing a poll meeting at Katihar on April 20, Mr. Kumar took on Mr. Prasad (without taking his name) for promoting his sons and daughters in politics, asking, "Should anybody have so many children?".

"He is speaking all this in desperation,"Mr. Prasad said.

"Now you take some pictures and go," Mr. Prasad said gently and posed shyly.

'Will win all seats'

On how many seats the RJD-led *mahagatbandhan* in Bihar would win in this election? "We are winning on all seats. BJP is being wiped out," he said.

In Bihar, the polls to 40 Lok Sabha seats will take place in seven phases.

Congress announces fresh list of Lok Sabha candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday announced a fresh list of Lok Sabha candidates, with nine from Andhra Pradesh and two from Jharkhand.

Of the two in Jharkhand, one is for the Ranchi Lok Sabha seat where former Union Minister Subodh Kant Sahay's daughter Yashashwini has been fielded.

On the other Jharkhand seat, Godda, the party changed its candidate, replacing MLA Deepika Singh Pandey with Pradeep Yadav.

Earlier in the day, the Congress's Central Election Committee met to discuss the party's Lok Sabha candidates for Punjab and Bihar. Though there is no official word on the meeting, sources indicated Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi had a separate one-on-one meeting to discuss some of the contentious seats.

Several names were discussed for both States, and a final decision on key seats has been left to the Congress president to take. The next list of candidates will be announced soon, the sources cited.

The Congress is contesting all 13 seats in Punjab, but in Bihar, it will field candidates for nine seats as the party is part of the *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Left parties.

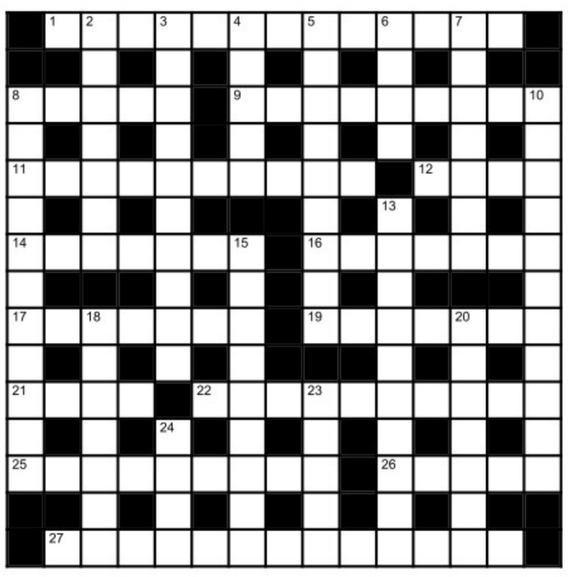
So far, the Congress has announced 294 candidates for the seven-phase Lok Sabha election that got under way on April 19.

TH CROSSWORD + 14155

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One looking to get a good deal naughtier with new bra, kinky (7,6)
8 Lady in group, initially obese, getting a heavenly body (5)
9 Thief is silent, slyly stealing fancy car (9)
11 Criminal in a boat infiltrated by detectives, about to surrender (10)
12 Separate from husband, wanting change (4)
14 Arouses strong passion with drink (5,2)
16 Bit of Chanel for model, great perfume (7)
17 Pastries covered by mould, most substandard (7)
19 French artist and damsel cuddling at start of exhibition (7)
21 Maudlin lyrics enthral thoroughly (4)
22 Only remaining option for starlets desperately wanting lead in films (4,6)
25 Dress up bride more extravagantly (9)
26 Throwing one rope to save person who is doomed (5)
27 X-ray with anterior end of coronoid fractured is unusual (13)

Down

2 Top doctor and a nurse, drifting apart (7)
3 Get closer perhaps after drinking rum heartily in English city (10)
4 Lives on rent in small island (5)
5 Sing to entertain, roaming endlessly, playing musical instrument (9)
6 Retired chaps conserving oriental tree (4)
7 Issue of rebellion ousting head of state (7)
8 Stall serving starter of meat pie outside lodge by castle (4,3,4)
10 Where tenant's complaints go exactly (2,3,6)
13 Caught with target slaughtered, star conceals firearm (10)
15 Finish golf stroke, employing power to speed up ball (3,4,2)
18 Sick boy overwhelmed by viral disease - getting case containing medicine (7)
20 One who's contemptuous of striker's first free kick (7)
23 Knocking back Italian wine, getting drowsy (5)
24 Tower's burning, I hear (4)

SUDOKU

6	5	7						
	3	8		6	7			
	9		4	3				
2	8	6	1					
5								6
					4	8	1	2
				4	5		8	
			7	2		1	3	
						6	7	4

No.SS6136 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	
R		U		O		I		E		R		P		S
I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T	S		A	L	E	R	T
G		L		T		M		O		V		N		A
H	A	I	R	S		A	M	U	S	E	M	E	N	T
T		N				Y		R		L		D		E
S	W	E	E	T	S			C	A	L	M			
		S		R		R		E		E		F		
			M	A	K	E			I	D	E	A	L	S
W		E		V		T		U				M		E
A	N	S	W	E	R	I	N	G		S	M	I	L	E
I		T		L		R		L		M		L		I
T	R	A	I	L		I	M	I	T	A	T	I	O	N
S		T		E		N		E		R		A		G
	R	E	F	R	I	G	E	R	A	T	O	R	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	3	7	5	4	6	9	8
7	8	9	6	3	1	2	4	5
4	5	6	9	8	2	7	3	1
5	6	7	8	4	9	1	2	3
3	4	8	1	2	5	9	6	7
9	1	2	3	7	6	8	5	4
2	7	1	5	6	3	4	8	9
6	9	5	4	1	8	3	7	2
8	3	4	2	9	7	5	1	6

FAITH

Rama, the eternal guide

Sceptics may wonder if Rama, who lived in Tretha Yuga, could be a guiding force in today's Kali Yuga. Rama is relevant for all ages and for people from all walks of life, said Dhamal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse. Nammazhwar had said, "*Karpar irama piranai allal matrum karparo*?" (Would those who analyse *priyam* [pleasure] and *hitham* [aspects which do good], learn about anyone other than the great Rama?). If one is struggling in the choppy sea of life, one needs to look no further than the nuanced Ramayana to stay afloat.

Rama made no distinction between the rich and the poor, the mighty and the weak, a king or his subject, he treated everyone with respect and reiterated the importance of getting along with everyone in this world. When confronted by challenges, he applied the principle of mata, pita, guru, deivam.

In the Bala Kandam, Rama exemplifies the role of a student, regardless of his high birth. When sage Viswamitra asked him to kill Tataka as she is no gentle woman but a cruel monster, Rama replied, "The Vedas say obey mata, pita and guru. Therefore, I shall comply." Similarly, he stepped on and released Ahalya from the curse of being a stone. In Mithila, when his guru instructed him to bend Siva's bow, Rama complied.

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

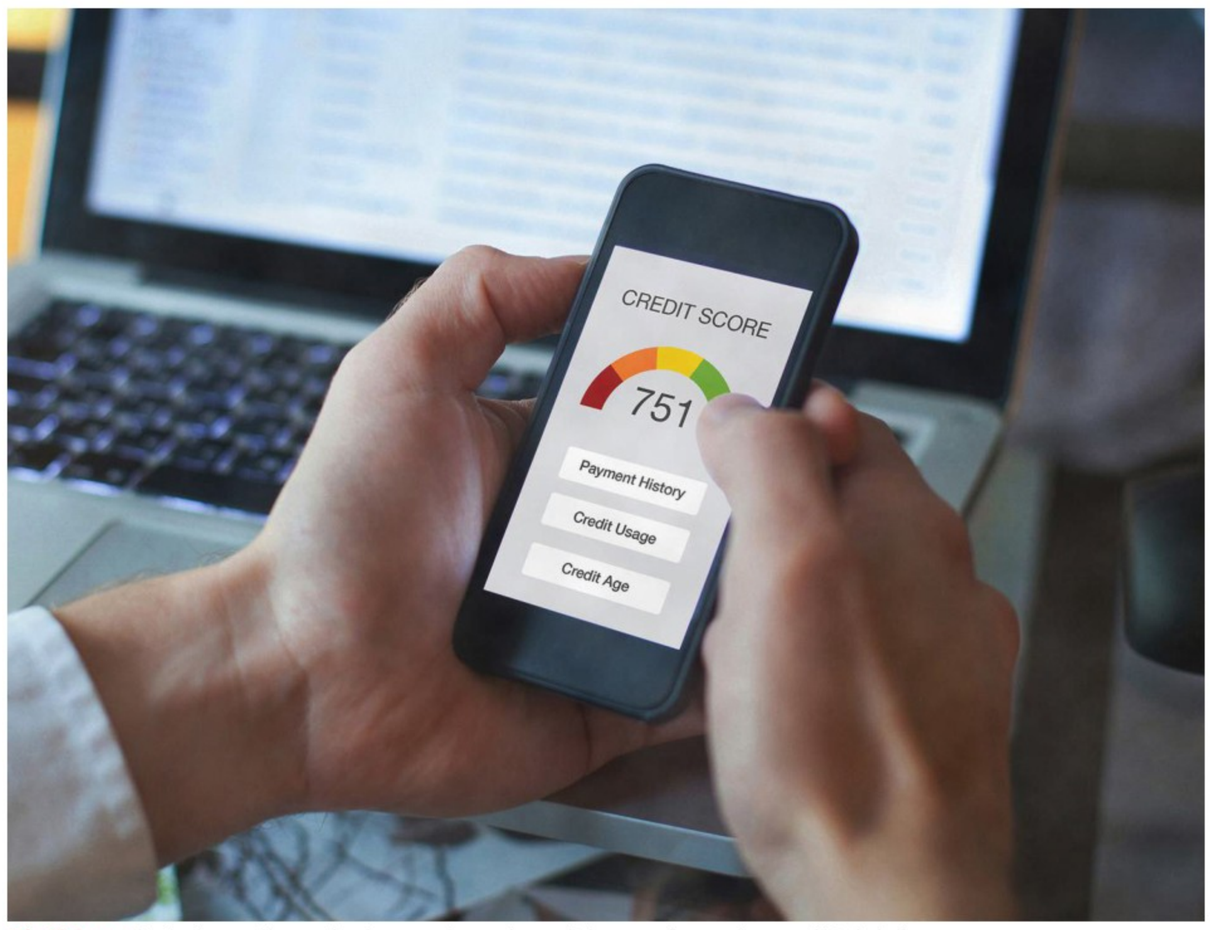
Q I am 83, my wife 75 and our only bachelor son 46. We have a 30' x 40' site in my wife's name on the outskirts of Bengaluru, beyond city corporation, which is under panchayat administration, purchased and registered on September 8, 2004 for ₹42,000. We intend to sell the same now for ₹16 lakh. We also have a flat with built-up area of about 1,100 sq. ft. on the outskirts of Bengaluru, beyond city corporation limits, under Panchayat administration (now also under panchayat) purchased and registered in the names of all the three of us on January 30, 2021 for ₹67.79 lakh. The flat has been kept locked and never let out at any time. We intend to sell it for ₹86.5 lakh. We do not have any idea to invest in any property at least for the next 2/3 years. All of us have PAN cards andbeen paying I-T for the past many years. We wish to know the following:-
(a) To avoid or to reduce to the minimum, the payment of Capital Gains Tax, how much money do we have to deposit in a Capital Gains Account?
(b) What are the options available to us for investments/deposits, the sale proceeds and the annual interest rate and minimum period for the deposit?
(c) Can I and my wife deposit a part of this money in the Senior Citizens' Saving Scheme in the Post Office, which offers 8.2 % annual interest?
(d) Since the flat is registered in the names of all the three of us, should we get the sale proceeds in three different cheques/ DDs for equal amounts? If so, what are the benefits? Kindly, also give us any other relevant advice?
K.V.ANANTHANARAYANAN

A Point-wise response:
a) It is to be noted the purpose of Capital Gains Deposit Scheme is for the temporary parking of the funds arising from the sale of the long-term capital asset and use the same to purchase or construct house properties within the timelines prescribed in Sections 54 & 54F.
Depositing the long-term capital gains in such accounts shall not grant any exemption if it is not further invested in house properties.
However, you may, under Section 54EC, claim an exemption of long-term capital gains when an amount of up to ₹50 lakh is invested in Capital Gains Bonds within six months of the date of the original transfer.
b) As mentioned above, an investment of up to ₹50 lakh in capital gains bonds can be done to claim exemption of long-term capital gains. Such bonds are issued by NHAI, REC, PFC and IRFC with a lock-in of 5 years. You may look into details such as the prevailing rate of interest and other terms of the bond issue in their official websites.
c) Deposit in senior citizen savings scheme does not qualify for claiming exemption of long-term capital gains.
d) Since the property is in the name of three people, it has to be taken equally or in the same proportion of ownership as per the purchase document. However, if there is a joint bank account for all three sellers then a single payment can be taken to the specified account as a matter of convenience. Moreover, benefit under Section 54EC can be claimed by all of you or individually by any one of you.

Q For a.y. 2024-2025 10E tax relief can't be deducted under new tax regime? So, should 10E be calculated as per old tax regime?
KAVITA

A Form 10E is to be filed for claiming relief under Section 89 read with rule 21A. The aforementioned relief is not specifically excluded from the list of deductions and exemptions as provided in Section 115BAC (alternative tax regime, in other words, new tax regime).
Relief under Section 89 has to be calculated based on Rule 21A. There are certain calculations involved to arrive at the relief. If new tax regime is opted for the current assessment year, relief under Section 89 may not be available since the rate of taxation under the new regime would be less compared with the earlier years. Therefore, after calculating the relief under new and the old regimes, you may choose to opt for the correct regime based on calculations.
(The writer is partner, GSS and Associates, Chartered Accountants,Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



Mindful eye: Monitoring credit score has been made easy by credit bureaus. free credit score digital platforms. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Key benefits of regularly tracking your credit score

When one applies for any loan or a credit card, lenders check the individual's credit score and report, to gauge the creditworthiness and risk associated with providing them any type of credit

KEEPING WATCH

Radhika Binani

Credit score is a numeric value that represents how an individual has handled credit in the past.

Based on one's credit behaviour, which includes factors such as timely repayment of EMIs and credit-card bills and number and frequency of credit enquiries made, each individual's credit score is calculated by credit bureaus. This credit score is updated by the bureaus each month.

When one applies for any kind of loan or a credit card, lenders check the individual's credit score and report, to gauge the creditworthiness and risk associated with providing them any type of credit.

A healthy credit score usually enables one to have a wider choice of offers to choose from and get the best offer available.

> A healthy credit score usually enables one to have a wider choice of offers to choose from and get the best offer available in the market

> Monitoring of credit score has been made easy and seamless by credit bureaus and free credit score digital platforms

Regular tracking
Along with displaying good credit behaviour, a crucial aspect behind maintaining a healthy credit score is regular tracking and taking timely action.

A common misconception related to credit score is checking it often leads to a dip in the score. One needs to note checking your own credit score directly through the bureau or a credit-score platform, is called a soft enquiry and has zero impact on one's credit score, regardless of how many times you check your score. In fact, soft enquiries are not mentioned in your credit report.

It is only when one applies for credit, and lenders request your credit report from a credit bureau to check your credit history, it is mentioned in the credit report.

This is called a hard enquiry. Frequent hard enquiries within a short space of time may have a negative impact on your credit score.

Why track?
Building and then maintaining a healthy credit score consistently is key to one's financial health as it can help in easy access to credit in time of need and to fulfill crucial life-goals like home purchase, for which usually a home loan is required by most.

Here, regular monitoring of one's credit score and report is key, because it helps in the following issues.

Credit awareness
Once one starts tracking their credit report regularly, it leads to deep awareness around good credit behaviour such as paying EMIs and credit card bills on time, not making too many enquiries too often, not displaying any signs of over-dependence of credit etc.

Those who have had a poor credit history, leading to damaged credit and a poor score, can, through regular tracking, understand factors that might be impacting one's score and take corrective actions to repair the damage. It usually takes a considerable time to improve one's credit score, and hence, regular tracking and monitoring the progress is crucial for those with average or poor credit score.

Credit behaviour
Tracking leads to good credit behaviour, which over a period of time results in a healthy credit score. A strong credit score leads to several benefits, including higher eligibility and wider choice of lenders and offers.

Many lenders also offer lower interest rates on home loans and personal loans to applicants having higher credit scores.

A high credit score also helps one take advantage of pre-approved offers, which enables easy access to credit, usually with minimum or zero documentation and seamless and quick processes.

Spot, rectify errors
One's credit report at times can have some errors, which can lead to an adverse impact on the credit score. The errors can be errors or a result of fraudulent activities such as someone using your PAN to open a loan account.

Rectify error
In both cases, one needs to immediately raise a grievance with the credit bureau and get the error rectified. Checking credit report once every 2-3 months would help detect any errors in the report.

Monitoring of credit score has been made easy and seamless by credit bureaus and free credit score digital platforms. In fact, many free credit-score platforms, via partnerships with credit bureaus, enable comparison of score across bureaus and ease of monthly tracking.

(The writer is Chief Product Officer, Paisabazaar)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5.5%
State Bank of India	11.15-15.30	10,909-11,974	2,182-2,395	1.50%(Min. Rs 1,000 to Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.80 onwards	10,821 onwards	2,164 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	11.05-18.75	10,884-12,902	2,177-2,580	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 1,00, Max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.85-14.85	10,834-11,856	2,167-2,371	0.50%-1% (Min. Rs 250, Max Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	10.95-16.40	10,859-12,266	2,172-2,453	0.50% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.40-17.95	10,772-12,683	2,144-2,537	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.75-13.50	10,809-11,505	2,162-2,301	0.50%-1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Min Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.43	11,487	2,297	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	1.5% -3.5%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.70 - 10.45	10,307 - 10,735	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.85 - 12.70	10,343 - 11,300	Up to Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.70 - 12.70	10,307 - 11,300	0.25% (Rs. 500 - Rs. 2,500)
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.85	10,343 - 10,834	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.75 - 9.80	10,319 - 10,554	Up to Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.60	10,331 - 10,525	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 - 12.00	10,343 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.37	10,350 - 10,964	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.75% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.75 onwards	10,562 onwards	Up to Rs 10,000
City Union Bank	14.45 - 14.95	11,751 - 11,882	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.

Rates and charges as on April 17 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

The edge of a cliff

COVERNOTE

Looking for answers to health insurance concerns only raises more questions. Meanwhile, healthcare costs as well as health insurance costs keep mounting

K. Nitya Kalyani

Last week I helped a friend sort out a health insurance dilemma her friend found herself in. A middle-aged single lady employed part-time, Meena, takes care of her aged dependant mother. Meena's hospitalisation claim was rejected because she had not declared a certain treatment she had undergone before the policy was taken.

The policy itself had been running for years and the treatment was of older vintage. Meera, who was completely cured, did not think it was relevant, and did not remember to disclose it in her health insurance proposal. When the claim was repudiated, she actually wrote to the insurer, asking very earnestly that her oversight may be overlooked.

The insurer, did not. However, they did write back saying they would be willing to continue her coverage, but with her specific health condition as an exclusion. What is more, they would protect her accrued benefits under the current policy. Benefits like having finished the waiting period for pre-existing conditions and her no-claim benefits that usually accrue as higher sum insured.

At this point, our common friend asked me what best advice I could give Meena. No, Meena was not interested in pursuing the rejected claim. But at some point, she was not going to be able to afford to keep hospitalisation policy renewed. Plus, there was the cost of her mother's coverage.

My common-sense advice was Meena should accept the insurer's offer and continue coverage without a break. For one thing, it would give her a year with coverage to figure out options. Continuity of coverage is also crucial because, after a break, insurers will look at it as a fresh underwriting proposal and could well turn it down. It is getting harder to get coverage, especially as one ages.

I asked her to request the company to give her enhanced sum insured to serve future needs and also make her coverage of more value since sub-limits erode the coverage we think we have under our hospitalisation policies. In addition, she could also go in for a top-up policy. In fact, she should try to do both for her mother as well, was my instinct.

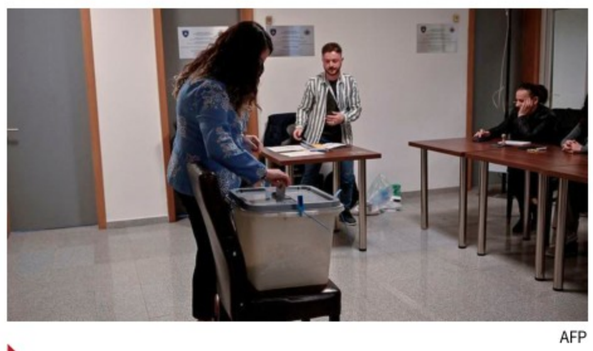
Back to affordability. This is becoming a vexing situation as outlined earlier in CoverNote. Mass government insurance schemes exclude tax assesses, leaving Meena with no happy solution. Extending benefits under the mass insurance scheme to 70 plus citizens is in the picture now but only in the nature of an election promise.

We also have to wait and see what financial-status conditions are attached. We will look at multi-layered challenges of health insurance and healthcare as well in the forthcoming instalments of CoverNote.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

PRISTINA

Serb-majority North Kosovo towns vote on ethnic Albanian mayors



AFP

Polling began on Sunday in four towns in Kosovo's Serb-majority north holding a local vote on whether to oust their ethnic Albanian mayors in a territory riddled with tensions. The vote could pave the way for the election of Serbs to the mayoral posts after the selection of the ethnic Albanians sparked violence in the region. AFP

BEIJING

Landslips injure six as south China braces for 'once a century' floods

AFP

Landslips in southern China injured at least six persons and trapped others on Sunday, as the region braced for severe floods "seen around once a century". Torrential downpours across swathes of Guangdong province since Thursday have swollen rivers in the Pearl River Delta and triggered deluges in mountainous areas. AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil's Bolsonaro hails Musk's 'courage' over freedom of speech

GETTY IMAGES

Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro hailed Elon Musk at a rally in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, saying the billionaire has stood up for freedom of expression — which the former President claims is at risk in his country. Musk is under investigation in Brazil after he accused a Supreme Court justice this month of censoring social networks. AFP

TOKYO

One dead, seven missing after two military helicopters crash in Japan

AP

One died and seven persons were missing on Sunday after an accident overnight in which two Japanese military helicopters apparently collided before crashing into the sea, officials said. The helicopters appear to have crashed during night-time training of countering submarines off the Izu Islands in the Pacific Ocean. AFP

U.S. hints at sanctioning Israeli unit over 'abuses'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States appears close to sanctioning an Israeli military unit over alleged human rights violations in the West Bank, a move the Israeli Prime Minister angrily denounced as "the height of absurdity."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hinted at such steps when asked by a reporter in Italy about reports that his department had recommended cuts in military aid to an Israeli unit involved in violent incidents in the West Bank.

The allegations precede the deadly October 7 attacks by Hamas on southern Israel.

Mr. Blinken said his department was conducting investigations under a law that prohibits sending military aid to foreign security units that violate human rights with impunity.

Israeli strikes kill 18 children in Rafah as U.S. advances aid package

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vows to increase political and military pressure on Hamas; Tel Aviv's troops kill 2 Palestinians in West Bank; Washington's $26 billion aid package consists of $9 billion in humanitarian assistance for Gaza

Associated Press
RAFAH

Israeli strikes on the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight killed 22 people, including 18 children, health officials said on Sunday, as the United States was on track to approve billions of dollars of additional military aid to Israel, its close ally.

Israel has carried out near-daily air raids on Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has sought refuge from fighting elsewhere. It has also vowed to expand its ground offensive against the Hamas militant group to the city on the border with Egypt despite international calls for restraint, including from the U.S.

"In the coming days, we will increase the political and military pressure on Hamas because this is the only way to bring back our hostages and achieve victory. We will land more and painful blows on Hamas – soon," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement. He did not give details.

Sad end: A man mourns next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes in Rafah, in the southern Gaza on Sunday. REUTERS

The first Israeli strike in Rafah killed a man, his wife and their 3-year-old child, according to the nearby Kuwaiti Hospital, which received the bodies. The woman was pregnant and the doctors managed to save the baby, the hospital said.

The second strike killed 17 children and two women, all from an extended family, according to hospital records. Mohammed al-Beheiri said his daughter, Rasha, and her six children, the youngest 18 months old, were among those killed. Her husband's second wife and their three children were still under the rubble, al-Beheiri said.

Casualty figures

The Israel-Hamas war has killed over 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, devastated Gaza's two largest cities and left a swath of destruction. Around 80% of the territory's population have fled to other parts of the besieged coastal enclave.

The $26 billion aid package approved by the House of Representatives on Saturday includes around $9 billion in humanitarian assistance for Gaza, which experts say is on the brink of famine. The Senate could pass the package as soon as on Tuesday, and U.S. President Joe Biden has promised to sign it immediately.

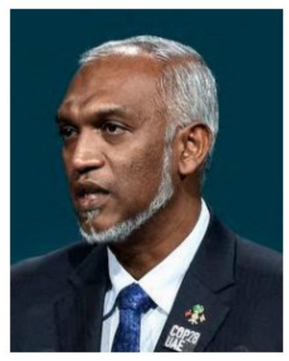
The conflict, now in its seventh month, has sparked regional unrest pitting Israel and the U.S. against Iran and allied militant groups across West Asia. Israel and Iran traded fire directly this month, raising fears of all-out war between the longtime foes.

Tensions spike

Tensions have also spiked in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Israeli troops killed two Palestinians who the military says attacked a checkpoint with a knife and a gun near the southern West Bank town of Hebron early on Sunday. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the two killed were 18 and 19, from the same family. No Israeli forces were wounded, the Army said.

Muizzu's party marks big win in Maldives parliamentary polls

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO



Mohamed Muizzu

The ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of the Maldives secured a big win in the parliamentary elections on Sunday, giving President Mohamed Muizzu significant control over the legislature, six months after he rose to the country's top office. The leader, who wanted Indian military out of the island nation, has pledged to elevate strategic ties with China.

Early leads swiftly translated to a decisive majority for the PNC in Sunday's fragmented race that was fought by six political parties and several independent groups by fielding 368 candidates for the 93 seats in parliament or the People's Majlis. The PNC, according to local media, was headed for a "super majority" in parliament, with a likely win in nearly 60 out of the 93 seats, pending official results.

House reconfiguration

The poll outcome effectively reconfigures the Maldivian parliament – earlier controlled by the Opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) – in President Muizzu's favour.

This, despite a significant split in Mr. Muizzu's political camp, following former President Abdulla Yameen's move to form a new party late last year.

Although Mr. Muizzu faces big challenges, especially on the economic front – the International Monetary Fund has warned that the country is at high risk of debt distress – he was able to implement his presidential poll promise of sending Indian military back.

Following his persistent demand, New Delhi agreed to replace its military personnel with civilians before May 10. Further, Mr. Muizzu has pledged to elevate strategic ties with China, during his state visit earlier this year.

A total of 76 % of eligible voters cast their ballot in the Maldives's parliamentary election on Sunday, chairman of the Elections Commission Fuwad Thowfeek told *The Hindu* from Male. "While the voter turnout in percentage terms reflets a drop from 81 % in 2019, the number of voters has increased by about 1,000," he said.

Ukraine says it struck Russian salvage ship in annexed Crimea

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia claims to have gained territory near the key battleground town of Chasiv Yar in eastern Ukraine

Ukraine said on Sunday its Navy had struck a salvage ship belonging to Russia's Black Sea fleet on the annexed Crimean peninsula, putting it out of service.

Social media footage purportedly filmed in the Crimean port of Sevastopol showed a ship in flames.

"Today, the Ukrainian Navy hit the Russian salvage ship *Kommuna* in temporarily occupied Crimea," Ukraine's Defence Ministry said. The Russian Navy used the ship for deep-sea work, including raising submarines and sunken cargo, and was one of the oldest in service, Ukraine said.

Meanwhile, Russia said on Sunday its forces had gained territory near the key battleground town of Chasiv Yar in east Ukraine. Russia said it had taken control of Bogdanivka, less than 3 km northeast of Chasiv Yar. Chasiv Yar, which had a population of about 13,000 before the conflict, has been largely destroyed by fighting and most residents have fled.

Synchronous 'die-in'

Climate activists from Extinction Rebellion and Red Rebel Brigade hold a "die in" during "The Funeral for Nature" in Boston in the U.S. on Saturday. The protest coincides with funeral processions taking place at the same time in the U.K., Australia, Sweden and Portugal. AFP

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
Telephone: 040-23536740, 23538713 to 23538721 Ext: 535
Email; kvprakash@nmdc.co.in; jvenkatesan@nmdc.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – L13100TG1958GOI001674

Tender No. : HQMM/3012-23/1100001714/1700001708/323 Date:20.04.2024
MSTC Ref : NMDC/Head Office/Material Management/24-25/ET/29

Open Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)

E-tenders are invited for following items from reputed manufacturers directly or through their dealers/accredited agents through MSTC portal website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer login.jsp**

Description	Qty (No.)	Pre Bid Meeting (VC Mode)	Display Sale Tender & of Documents Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer
Supply & Supervision of Erection & Commissioning of BackHoe Hydraulic Excavators along with 6 years/18000 Hrs. COST CAP, whichever is earlier.	02	30.04.2024 at 11 AM	FINAL 17.05.2024 to 14.06.2024	14.06.2024 By 02.30 PM (IST)

Prospective bidders may visit our websites: **www.nmdc.co.in**; CPP Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in; https://mstcecommerce.com** and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website and MSTC e-portal only. **GM (Materials)**

Iran President set to visit Pakistan to boost ties

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi will travel to Islamabad on Monday to meet his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said, as the two countries seek to mend ties following deadly cross-border attacks this year. The tit-for-tat missile strikes in January in the porous border region of Balochistan stoked regional tensions already inflamed by the Israel-Hamas war.

Russia flags concern over quality of rice imports from Pak.

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

Russia has warned Pakistan that it would ban rice imports again if Moscow's phytosanitary concerns are not addressed in future consignments after a quarantine organism was detected in the rice consignment.

The warning came after Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (FSVPS) issued a notification regarding violations of international and Russian phytosanitary requirements over a shipment of rice imported from Pakistan.

Dated April 2, the notification highlights the presence of a quarantine organism, "Megaselia scalaris (Loew)," in the rice consignment.

The Russian authorities have written to the Pakistan embassy to prevent such violations and ensure all Pakistani rice exporters follow phytosanitary standards to ensure the safety of agricultural products.

One killed in clashes as Pakistan holds byelections

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Polling ended on Sunday for 21 national and provincial seats in the byelections in Pakistan, which took place amidst tight security and suspension of cellular and Internet services in some districts of Punjab and Balochistan to maintain law and order.

Despite elaborate security measures, at least one person was killed and several others injured in clashes in Punjab province.

REQUIRED PRINCIPAL (REGULAR) FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, BATHINDA (CBSE AFFILIATED)

EXISTING VACANCY — APPLY TO

Army Public School located at	Upto Class	Application be forwarded to
Bathinda Cantt Punjab – 151004	XII (Senior Secondary School)	Director AWES HQ South Western Command Pin – 908546 C/o 56 APO E-mail : apsbathinda24@gmail.com

Qualification and Experience. As per CBSE Bye-Laws.
Eligibility Criteria. In exercise of powers given vide Clause 54 of CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws.
Age. Below 55 years (Ex-servicemen below 57 years). Age criteria will be applied as on date of assumption of appointment.
Pay and Allowances. Negotiable, alongwith the other perks as per CBSE guidelines. Special incentives for outstanding meritorious candidates.
Selection Process. Through Panel Interview **(Only candidates shortlisted, based on qualification, experience and other criteria as may be considered by the management, will be called for interview).**
How to Apply. Apply on plain paper alongwith Bio-Data, affixed with photograph, mentioning the year/school/appointment wise experience, duly supported with experience certificates/testimonials, Email ID, Mobile Number and Postal Address.
Last date for receipt of application. **13 May 2024** (No TA/DA admissible).
Note .The School Management reserves the right of selection/rejection.

BHEL भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
8th Floor, BHEL Sadan, Plot No. 25, Sector – 16A, Noida – 201301, Uttar Pradesh

Central Procurement Cell (CPC)

As a strategic initiative, **BHEL has now centralized the tendering process for major installation packages of upcoming Power Projects, by forming a Central Procurement Cell (CPC) at BHEL Sadan, Noida.** With its formation, CPC is the sole agency in BHEL to float/ finalize tenders for sub-contracting works of Installation Packages for all upcoming projects secured by BHEL since January 2024 onwards and shall act as a single point contact for all queries related to those tenders.

CPC has gone live with the floatation of its first tender for RCC Chimney for 2x800MW Lara Stage II Project.

All the tenders published from CPC shall be hosted at BHEL e-Procurement portal (https://eprocurebhel.co.in) and BHEL webpage (www.bhel.com -->Tender Notifications).

Prospective bidders are requested to keep themselves updated from time to time for all future tenders to be floated from CPC in above portal.

For any queries related to tendering process, please feel free to contact us through following e-mail id; cpc_mm@bhel.in

sd - GM/MM

www.bhel.com /BHELOffical /BHEL_India /BHEL_India /bhel.india /company/bhel

CAUSING A FLUTTER

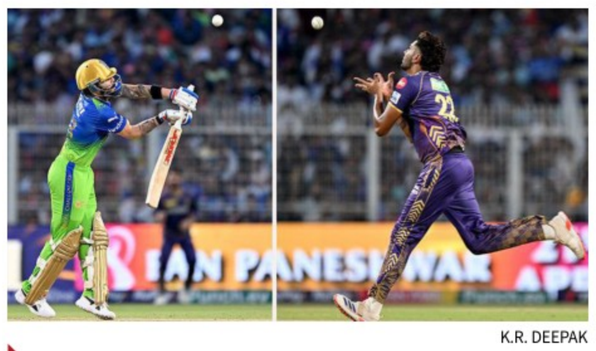
Karn nearly pulls it off for RCB in a dramatic final over

K.R. DEEPAK

Karn Sharma stole the show for RCB with a stunning cameo. With his team needing 21 off the final over bowled by KKR's Mitchell Starc, the left-hander struck sixes off the first, third and fourth deliveries. With three needed off two, Karn was caught and bowled by the Aussie. The Bengaluru side finished a run short.

KOHLI DISMISSAL

Harshit calls it 'umpire's decision'; Topley feels it's a 'grey area'



K.R. DEEPAK

While KKR's Harshit Rana did not want to comment on Virat Kohli's dismissal off a high full toss at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, RCB's Reece Topley said there was a grey area as far as measuring a beamer was concerned. But Harshit, who took Kohli's wicket, said, "It was the umpire's decision."

BACKING HIS PARTNER

'You can't keep players like Jaiswal out of the game for too long'

K. MURALI KUMAR

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who hasn't had a good run, found support in Jos Buttler. "He's one of the best players in the side but hasn't hit top gear yet. You can't keep players like that out of the game for too long. He's too good and, hopefully, the two of us can bat together for some time and make some good partnerships," said Buttler.

GAME-CHANGERS

Impact Player rule puts a bigger value on skilful bowlers: Buttler

K. MURALI KUMAR

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler provided his inputs on the Impact Player rule. "It's been interesting, the Impact Player rule and the lengthening of batting line-ups," he said. "I think it puts an even bigger value on the skilful bowlers, the guys who are game-changers with the ball."

KKR holds nerve to pip RCB in photo finish at Eden

The hosts ride on skipper Shreyas' fifty and Russell's all-round show to prevail by a solitary run over the visitors as the efforts by Jacks and Patidar go in vain in yet another high-scoring contest

IPL-17

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

In a high-scoring encounter dotted with heart-stopping moments, Kolkata Knight Riders rode on skipper Shreyas Iyer's half-century and Andre Russell's excellent all-round showing to manage an exciting one-run win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Indian Premier League at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday.

Inserted on a batter-friendly track, KKR erected 222 before thwarting RCB's spirited chase to post its fifth win. Even in a different uniform, RCB suffered its sixth straight defeat.

With RCB needing 21 in the last over, Karn Sharma unbelievably punished Mitchell Starc in his seven-ball 20 before being dismissed by the Aussie.

With three needed off the last ball, wicketkeeper Phil Salt's spectacular diving run out stopped RCB just at the brink.

During RCB's reply, Harshit Rana surprised Kohli with a high full toss and took a catch. The third umpire found it to be a legal delivery and gave Kohli out to the dismay of the batter.

After Faf du Plessis' departure, Will Jacks (55) and Rajat Patidar (52) counter-attacked. Jacks, who dominated the leg-side, mercilessly clobbered bowlers. Jacks, who scored 22 off a Starc over, formed a 102-run association with Patidar, who effortlessly clubbed the spinners, in 48 balls.

Lucky mascot

KKR's lucky mascot Russell provided crucial breakthroughs by accounting for both in the 12th over.

Sunil Narine scalped Cameron Green and Mahipal Lomror in the next over before KKR bowlers, led by the superb Harshit and Russell, excelled in the death.

Earlier, Salt gave a fine exhibition of clean stroke-play to set up a solid platform for KKR. Salt (48), who hammered 28 off Lockie Ferguson's first over, put up a breezy 56-run partnership with Narine before falling to Mohammad Siraj.

Yash Dayal dismissed Narine and Angkrish Raghuvanshi in the sixth over and Green removed Venkatesh Iyer in the ninth.

Shreyas and Rinku Singh batted sensibly to add 40.

Shreyas executed his shots smartly on either side as he drove, pulled, reverse-hit and uppercut in his first fifty of the season.

Russell and Ramandeep Singh plundered 36 runs in the last two to take the host past 200 for the fourth time.

Barest of margins: Ferguson is caught short, courtesy a brilliant effort from wicketkeeper Salt. K. R. DEEPAK

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Phil Salt c Patidar b Siraj 48 *(14b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Sunil Narine c Kohli b Yash Dayal 10 *(15b, 2x4)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Green b Yash Dayal 3 *(4b)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Lomror b Green 16 *(8b, 3x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c du Plessis b Green 50 *(36b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh c Yash Dayal b Ferguson 24 *(16b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Andre Russell (not out) 27 *(20b, 4x4)*, Ramandeep Singh (not out) 24 *(9b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-7, nb-2, w-7): 20; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 222.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-56 (Salt, 4.2 overs), 2-66 (Narine, 5.2), 3-75 (Raghuvanshi, 5.6), 4-97 (Venkatesh, 8.2), 5-137 (Rinku, 13.1), 6-179 (Shreyas Iyer, 17.2).

RCB BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-40-1, Yash Dayal 4-0-56-2, Ferguson 4-0-47-1, Karn 4-0-33-0, Green 4-0-35-2.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli c&b Harshit 18 *(7b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Venkatesh b Varun 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, Will Jacks c Raghuvanshi b Russell 55 *(32b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Harshit b Russell 52 *(23b, 3x4, 5x6)*, Cameron Green c Ramandeep b Narine 6 *(4b, 1x6)*, Suyash Prabhudessai (**Impact player in place of Yash Dayal**) c Raghuvanshi b Harshit 24 *(18b, 3x4)*, Mahipal Lomror c & b Narine 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Dinesh Karthik c Salt b Russell 25 *(18b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Karn Sharma c & b Starc 20 *(7b, 3x6)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 0 *(0b)*, Lockie Ferguson run out 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-4): 9; Total (in 20 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-27 (Kohli, 2.1), 2-35 (du Plessis, 3.1), 3-137 (Jacks, 11.1), 4-138 (Patidar, 11.4), 5-151 (Green, 12.3), 6-155 (Lomror, 12.6), 7-187 (Prabhudessai, 17.2), 8-202 (Karthik, 18.6), 9-220 (Karn, 19.5).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Harshit 4-0-33-2, Starc 3-0-55-1, Varun 4-0-36-1, Narine 4-0-34-2, Suyash (**Impact player in place of Rinku**) 2-0-33-0, Russell 3-0-25-3.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Russell.
Knight Riders won by one run.

Next assignment

RCB: April 25 vs **SRH**
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

KKR: April 26 vs **PBKS**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	7	6	1	12	0.677
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	5	2	10	1.206
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	5	2	10	0.914
Chennai Super Kings	7	4	3	8	0.529
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.123
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	8	-1.055
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	-0.133
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	6	-0.477
Punjab Kings	8	2	6	4	-0.292
Royal Challengers	8	1	7	2	-1.046

After the Sai Kishore show, Tewatia takes Titans home

Stealing the show: Sai Kishore's four-wicket haul and Tewatia's knock turned things in Titans' favour. R.V. MOORTHY

Dhruva Prasad
MULLANPUR

In the battle of shaky top-orders, Rahul Tewatia's rearguard action took Gujarat Titans over the line by three wickets against Punjab Kings at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Though a 143-run target was just what the under-fire Titans batting line-up would have wished for, poor shot selection helped Kings claw back and give the Shubman Gill-led side a scare.

At the 16-over mark, the visitor still needed 38 runs to win with the last recognised batting pair, Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan, at the crease.

The former survived a close lbw shout in the following over, attempting a perilous reverse-sweep off Harpreet Brar.

He backed himself and reprised the shot two deliveries later, fetching a boundary on this occasion.

That opened the floodgates as 27 runs came off the next nine balls, with Kagiso Rabada's over, 18th of the innings, going for 20 runs.

Though Harshal Patel gave the crowd some cheer with two wickets in the 19th over with a yorker and a full toss, it wasn't enough for Punjab to avoid its fourth consecutive defeat at home.

Earlier, it was a familiar script for Kings as Shashank Singh and Ashutosh Sharma stood at the burning deck, with their team floundering at 86 for five.

Unfortunately for the host, there was no redemption this time as both batters were back in the dugout in a span of three overs, deceived in flight by left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore.

With the innings tottering at 99 for seven, it fell upon Impact Player Harpreet Singh Bhatia and No. 9 Harpreet Brar to drag the host to 142.

After electing to bat, Kings' top-order flattered to deceive as Sam Curran and Prabhsimran Singh put on the team's second 50-run opening partnership of the season but were soon watching the proceedings from the sidelines.

Prabhsimran, Rilee Rossouw, Liam Livingstone and Jitesh Sharma succumbed to a rush of blood in their head, leaving their side in early trouble.

Sai Kishore, Noor Ahmad and Rashid Khan claimed seven wickets between them, transcending seamer-friendly conditions and bamboozling the host in its den.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Sam Curran lbw b Rashid 20 *(19b, 2x4)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Saha b Mohit 35 *(21b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Rilee Rossouw lbw b Noor 9 *(7b, 2x4)*, Jitesh Sharma b Sai Kishore 13 *(12b, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Tewatia b Noor 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Shashank Singh c & b Sai Kishore 8 *(12b)*, Ashutosh Sharma c Mohit b Sai Kishore 3 *(8b)*, Harpreet Bhatia **(Impact Player in place of Prabhsimran)** run out 14 *(19b)*, Harpreet Brar c Shahrukh b Sai Kishore 29 *(12b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Harshal Patel c Shahrukh b Mohit 0 *(1b)*, Kagiso Rabada (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-2): 4; Total (in 20 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-52 (Prabhsimran, 5.3 overs), 2-63 (Rossouw, 6.6), 3-67 (Curran, 7.5), 4-78 (Livingstone, 10.2), 5-86 (Jitesh, 11.4), 6-92 (Ashutosh, 13.5), 7-99 (Shashank, 15.2), 8-139 (Harpreet Brar, 18.6), 9-140 (Harshal, 19.2).

TITANS BOWLING
Omarzai 2-0-13-0, Warrier 1-0-21-0, Mohit 4-0-32-2, Rashid 4-0-15-1, Noor 4-0-20-2, Sai Kishore 4-0-33-4, Shahrukh 1-0-7-0.

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Ashutosh b Arshdeep 13 *(11b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill c Rabada b Livingstone 35 *(29b, 5x4)*, Sai Sudharsan **(Impact Player in place of Warrier)** b Curran 31 *(34b, 3x4)*, David Miller b Livingstone 4 *(6b)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Jitesh b Harshal 13 *(10b, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 36 *(18b, 7x4)*, Shahrukh Khan b Harshal 8 *(4b, 1x6)*, Rashid Khan c Rossouw b Harshal 3 *(3b)*, Sai Kishore (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (for seven wkts. in 19.1 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-25 (Saha, 3.4), 2-66 (Gill, 9.3), 3-77 (Miller, 11.5), 4-97 (Sai Sudharsan, 14.4), 5-103 (Omarzai, 15.2), 6-138 (Shahrukh, 18.1), 7-142 (Rashid, 18.6).

KINGS BOWLING
Rabada 4-0-40-0, Arshdeep 2.1-0-17-1, Harshal 3-0-15-3, Curran 2-0-18-1, Harpreet Brar 4-0-35-0, Livingstone 4-0-19-2.

Toss: PBKS; **PoM:** Sai Kishore.
Titans won by three wickets with five balls to spare.

Next assignment

GT: April 24 vs **DC**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: April 26 vs **KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

The week ahead

April 22	RR vs MI	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
April 23	CSK vs LSG	Chennai	7.30 p.m.
April 24	DC vs GT	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 25	SRH vs RCB	Hyderabad	7.30 p.m.
April 26	KKR vs PBKS	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 27	DC vs MI	Delhi	3.30 p.m.
April 27	LSG vs RR	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
April 28	GT vs RCB	Ahmedabad	3.30 p.m.
April 28	CSK vs SRH	Chennai	7.30 p.m.

MI has a job on hand against topper RR

Up and down: Rohit has provided MI good starts while RR's Ashwin has struggled a bit this season. K. MURALI KUMAR

Anish Pathiyil
JAIPUR

After serving up two edge-of-the-seat thrillers in their previous games, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians clash at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Monday with different aspirations.

RR currently sits atop the standings, losing just once in seven matches. The fightback from a precarious position against Kolkata Knight Riders, thanks to Jos Buttler's brilliance, will have further boosted the team's morale.

MI, on the other hand, finds itself in a mid-table scramble, trying to string together a few positive results to aid its playoff chances. After a disastrous start, when it lost three successive games, the side won three in its next four.

Though opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has struggled, the middle-order, led by Riyan Parag, has stepped up and ensured that the long tail hasn't been exposed.

The nervous nine-run win over Punjab Kings exposed chinks in the MI bowling armour and the team might be forced to ring in a few changes.

Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan have provided MI with the perfect platform, but the side will need better support from the middle-order to exact revenge on Royals at their den.

Today's match

RR vs MI

Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **28**
RR 13 | MI 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by six wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

INBRIEF

Rithvik and Niki combine triumphs in Acapulco

Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha beat top seeds Luke Johnson and Skander Mansouri 7-6(4), 7-5 in the doubles final of the $164,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Acapulco, Mexico, on Saturday. The pair's second Challenger title of the season earned it $9,350 and 125 ATP points.

Indian walkers Akshdeep, Priyanka qualify for Olympics

India's mixed relay duo of Akshdeep Singh and Priyanka Goswami qualified for the Paris Olympics by virtue of their 18th place finish at the World athletics race walking team championships in Antalya on Sunday. The Indians clocked a personal best of 3:05.03 for the 42.195-km distance. The race was won by Italians Francesco Fortunato and Valentina Trapletti in a time of 2:56:45. They were followed by Japan's Koki Ikeda and Kumiko Okada (2:57:04). The bronze was bagged by Spain's Alvaro Martin and Laura Garcia-Caro (2:57:47).

Panwar secures India's first Olympics quota in rowing

Balraj Panwar secured India's first Paris Olympics quota in rowing by finishing third in the men's single scull event of the 2024 World Asian and Oceanian Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regetta in Chungju, South Korea on Sunday. The 25-year-old Indian Army rower clocked 7:01.27 minutes to finish third in the 2000m race and seal the quota.

India's Greco-Roman wrestlers come up short

Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers disappointed in the Asian Olympic Games qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Sunday. Sunil Kumar (87kg) was the only Indian wrestler who managed to win a bout, against Japan's Soh Sakabe 5-1, before losing to Uzbekistan's Jalgasbay Berdimuratov 4-2 in the quarterfinals.

India para badminton stars strike it rich in Spain

India's Tarun beat compatriot Sukant Kadam 21-13, 16-21, 21-16 to win gold in the SL 4 category at the Spanish Para Badminton tournament in Vitoria on Sunday. In SL3 category, Kumar Nitesh, Manoj Sarkar and Jagadesh Dilli secured gold, silver and bronze for India. In the SH 6 category, Sivarajan Solaimalai secured bronze and Nithya Sre silver. Deep Ranjan and Manoj secured silver while Umesh Vikram and Surya Kant bagged bronze in the men's doubles SL 3and SL 4 categories.

Jepchirchir and Munyao secure Kenyan double

Olympic champion Peres Jepchirchir won the London marathon in a women's-only world record on Sunday as Alexander Mutiso Munyao's victory in the men's race made it a Kenyan double. Jepchirchir came home in front of world record holder Tigst Assefa and Joyciline Jepkosgei to break the record mark without male pacemakers. Jepchirchir's time of 2:16:16s smashed the women's-only course record of 2:17:01 set by compatriot Mary Keitany in 2017.

Rybakina wins Stuttgart Open for third title of the year

Elena Rybakina had little trouble in seeing off Marta Kostyuk 6-2 6-2 to win the Stuttgart Open on Sunday, her third title this year. The 2022 Wimbledon champion adds the Stuttgart title to her wins in the Brisbane International and the Abu Dhabi Open this year.

Gukesh outwits Firouzja, takes outright lead

Caruana beats Praggnanandhaa, joins Nepomniachtchi and Nakamura in second place; Vaishali defeats Lei for fourth straight win; Gujrathi and Humpy draw their penultimate round matches

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh took the sole lead after beating Alireza Firouzja of France in the penultimate round of the FIDE Candidates chess tournament at Toronto on Saturday. The 17-year-old from Chennai had 8.5 points going into the final round.

He was closely followed half-a-point behind by three players. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi, the winner of the last two editions of the tournament, and the two top -seeded Americans Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura were all on eight points.

Caruana joined the leaders after scoring a win with black pieces against R. Praggnanandhaa. Nepomniachtchi and Nakamura paired with each other and played out a draw.

Tan stays on top

In the women's event, China's Tan Zhongyi maintained her sole lead with 8.5 points. She drew with Russian Alexandra Goryachkina.

All concentration: Gukesh got the better of Firouzja in 63 moves, in an ending featuring rook-and-knight. FIDE

Her compatriot Lei Tingjie was in second place, with 7.5 points, despite her shock defeat to R. Vaishali, whose remarkable turnaround continued. The elder sister of Praggnanandhaa was on 6.5 points, the same as Koneru Humpy, who drew with Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk.

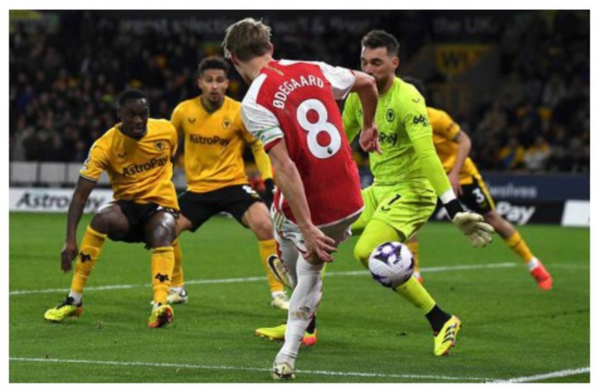
It was sweet revenge for Gukesh against Firouzja, the only player to beat him so far in the double round robin tournament. In a Ruy Lopez Game, he had white pieces.

Gukesh had a chance to draw by repetition of moves, but didn't go for it. He won in 63 moves, in an ending featuring rook-and-knight.

"After his 17th move I felt that the position was getting a bit messy," said Gukesh.

"After his 22nd move, I think he got over optimistic and started pushing for more. Although my pieces looked passive, strategically, if I consolidated, I would be better. This is exactly what happened in the game. I wanted to win this game."

The results (13th round):
Open: D. Gukesh 8.5 bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 4.5; R. Praggnanandhaa 6 lost to Fabiano Caruana (USA) 8; Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 8 drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 8; Vidit Gujrathi 5.5 drew with Nijat Abasov (Aze) 3.5.
Women: Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 8.5 drew with Alexandra Goryachkina (FIDE) 6.5; R. Vaishali 6.5 bt Lei Tingjie (Chn) 7.5; Koneru Humpy 6.5 drew with Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 5; Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 5 drew with Kateryna Lagno (FIDE) 6.5.



The clincher: Odegaard scores Arsenal's second against Wolves from a tight angle. AP

Arsenal, Liverpool stay in the hunt

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool got back on track after its week from hell as a 3-1 win at Fulham kept its Premier League title bid alive on Sunday, while Arsenal shrugged off the disappointment of its Champions League exit to move back to the top of the Premier League, on goal difference, with a 2-0 win at Wolves on Saturday.

Girona moved a step closer to securing Champions League qualification with an emphatic 4-1 win over Cadiz in LaLiga on Saturday, which ensured it will play European football next season.

In the Bundesliga, Bayer Leverkusen extended its unbeaten run to 45 games in all competitions with a 1-1 draw at Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

The results: Premier League: Everton 2 (Gueye 29, McNeil 76) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Aston Villa 3 (Rogers 45+1, Diaby 57, Bailey 78) bt Bournemouth 1 (Solanke 31-pen); Crystal Palace 5 (Olise 7, Eze 16, Emerson 20-og, Mateta 31, 64) bt West Ham 2 (Antonio 40, Mitchell 89-og); Fulham 1 (Castagne 45+2) lost to Liverpool 3 (Alexander-Arnold 32, Gravenberch 53, Jota 72).
Serie A: Sassuolo 0 lost to Lecce 3 (Gendrey 11, Dorgu 15, Piccoli 61).
Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 2 (Ducksch 28-pen, 49) bt VfB Stuttgart 1 (Undav 71); Borussia Dortmund 1 (Fullkrug 81) drew with Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Stanisic 90+7).
On Saturday: Premier League: Wolves 0 lost to Arsenal 2 (Trossard 45, Odegaard 90+5).
LaLiga: Girona 4 (Garcia 9, Martin 22, Dovbyk 71, Portu 82) bt Cadiz 1 (Escalante 81).

Might as well play five overseas cricketers, says Warner

IPL-17

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

David Warner, the most successful overseas cricketer in Indian Premier League history, has suggested an additional overseas player as an aftermath to the introduction of the Impact Player.

"Play five overseas players. You need to play five," Warner told *The Hindu*. "You have got 12 players that are playing (in a team, including the Impact Player) anyway at the moment, so you might as well make it five."

It may sound radical but with an increasing feeling of team combinations having been diluted with the introduction of two additional teams, it will be interesting to see if the Delhi Capitals veteran's suggestion will be considered ahead of the full auction.

With the Impact Player introduction itself being questioned in various quarters, Warner had no issues with the rule.

Radical suggestion? With the Impact Player rule, Warner believes five overseas players is 'good for the game'. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In fact, Warner hinted at T20 cricket heading towards some of its more fancied franchise league-based global sports properties in terms of rules.

"If you play 12, it helps because then you can play your six genuine bowlers and that all-rounder becomes sort of not required, if it makes sense.

"But you know they do a job and predominantly more if you are a batting all-rounder.

"I think it's a good thing for the game. Eventually the game might get to just the batting team and a bowling team and a fielding team."

Having retired from the two longer formats of the game, Warner has announced he will hang up his boots from international cricket at the end of the T20 World Cup in June. But the dashing opener stressed he will keep coming back to India for the IPL.

"For me, it's about spending time with family, but I'll prioritise IPL and Big Bash.

"I am doing commentary and I'll probably play one or two, maybe in the middle of the year, just to keep your cricket skills up," Warner said, explaining his plans post international retirement.

"I might even go back to NSW (New South Wales, his provincial team) to play some stuff there to help out with the young guys. There is a lot of things that I can do in that opportunity in that sense."

I was looking forward to batting with Head: Abhishek

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

When Sunrisers Hyderabad acquired Travis Head at the IPL auction last December, not only the management but its young opener Abhishek Sharma also wore a wide smile.

"I was really looking forward to batting with him throughout the season and even earlier too," said Abhishek after the side's big win over Delhi Capitals on Saturday. "Even the Punjab boys, they all know I used to really admire Travis Head. Luckily we got him in our side."

Abhishek revealed he keeps discussing various aspects of the game with Head. The two have more in common besides being left-handed openers. After emerging as an under-19 star, Head had to struggle to establish himself at the international level. Abhishek, too, has been plying his trade in domestic cricket for a long time.

Abhishek and Head... making heads turn. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

This IPL season, Abhishek is knocking on the selectors' door by scoring 257 runs in seven innings at a strike-rate of 215.96. He stressed that Head has helped him remain focused on the task at hand.

About whether he expected to be called up to India's squad, the opener said: "My goal is whenever I get to play, I am going to concentrate on that."

Chapman-inspired New Zealand shocks Pakistan

Agence France-Presse
RAWALPINDI

Mark Chapman hit a robust half century to help an under-strength New Zealand to a shock seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the third Twenty20 International on Sunday. The 29-year-old left hander smashed a 42-ball 87 to anchor New Zealand's chase of 179-run target in 18.2 overs against the much vaunted Pakistan bowling attack, silencing a packed 16,000 holiday crowd. Shadab Khan (41) and Babar Azam (37) were the main contributors in Pakistan's 178 for four after the hosts were sent in to bat by New Zealand. Tim Robinson hit 28 off 19 balls and Tim Seifert 21 off 16 to set the tone for New Zealand's chase.

The scores: Pakistan 178/4 in 20 overs (Shadab Khan 41, Babar Azam 37, Saim Ayub 32, Muhammad Irfan Khan 30 n.o., I. Sodhi 2/25) lost to New Zealand 179/3 in 18.2 overs (M. Chapman 87 n.o., D. Foxcroft 31, T. Robinson 28, Abbas Afridi 2/27).
Toss: New Zealand. *New Zealand wins by seven wickets. Series tied 1-1.*

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

JSC edges Beagles

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Rohit (32 points) helped JSC edge out Beagles BC 72-70 in the State junior under-18 boys' basketball here on Sunday.

The results: Semifinal league:
Boys: JSC 72 (Rohit 32, Abhir 21, Sarthak 10) bt Beagles BC 70 (Dhanush 22, Harshan 17, Sankirth 16); PPC 55 (Varun 17, Aditya 12, Aryaman 10) bt IBBC 28 (Samarth 10); JSC 67 (Rohit 29, Abhir 24) bt IBBC 61 (Allen 19, Anirudh 14); Beagles BC 49 (Dhanush 18, Harshan 15) bt PPC 48 (Tejaswin 15, Varun 11).
Girls: Mounts Club 64 (Nidhi 24, Nilaaya 17) bt DYES Mysore 50 (Yashaswini 18, Rakshitha 16); Bangalore Vanguards 71 (Tisha 23, Aditi 19) bt JSC 43 (Sanjana 16, Aadhya 15); Mounts Club 79 (Nidhi 22, Taarushee 14, Nilaaya 10) bt JSC 50 (Aadhya 21, Sanjana 12); DYES Mysore 62 (Yashaswini 21, Sanika 14) bt Bangalore Vanguards 54 (Tisha 20, Aditi 19).

Verstappen dominates from start to finish in Chinese GP

Reuters
SHANGHAI

Triple World champion Max Verstappen won Formula One's first Chinese Grand Prix in five years on Sunday with McLaren's Lando Norris finishing a surprise second to deny Red Bull the one-two.

The victory from pole position was Verstappen's fourth in five races in 2024 and was the 58th of his career.

Standing tall: Verstappen continued his dream run with yet another perfect race. GETTY IMAGES

The results: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1hr 40min 52.554sec, 2. Lando Norris (McLaren) +13.773, 3. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) 19.160, 4. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 23.623, 5. Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) 33.983, 6. George Russell (Mercedes) 38.724.
7. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) 43.414, 8. Oscar Piastri (McLaren) 59.198, 9. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 57.986, 10. Nico Hulkenberg (Haas) 1:00.476, 11. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) 1:02.812, 12. Alexander Albon (Williams) 1:05.506.
13. Pierre Gasly (Alpine) 1:09.223, 14. Guanyu Zhou (Sauber) 1:11.689, 15. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) 1:22.786, 16. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 1:27.533, 17. Logan Sargeant (USA/Williams) 1:35.110. **DNF:** Valtteri Bottas (Sauber), Yuki Tsunoda (RB), Daniel Ricciardo (RB).

The standings (top five):
Drivers: 1. Verstappen 110 pts., 2. Perez 85, 3. Leclerc 76, 4. Sainz Jr. 69, 5. Norris 58.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 195 pts., 2. Ferrari 151, 3. McLaren 96, 4. Mercedes 52, 5. Aston Martin 40.